

October 14, 2008

U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request.

Dear Sir / Madam:

Pursuant to the FOIA, I request 100 pages of your file and/or information on:

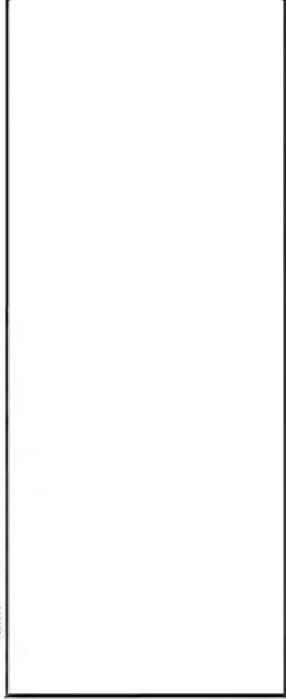
• The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion.

I request 100 pages of the above information, because of my indigent status, and I request a duplication waiver of fees. I request the information not for commercial use, but for educational private use, and disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations and activities of the government.

I am financially destitute, and I pray you will send me 100 pages of the above-requested file and/or information.

I await your reply within twenty (20) business days.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

OCT 15 2008

MAIL ROOM

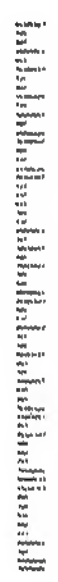


U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

OCT 03 2008

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225024843 001



JUNE 9, 2010

b6

UNITED STATES DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
170 MARCEL DR.
WINCHESTER, VA 22602-4843

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACT (FOIPA)

SUBJECT: PROTOCOLS OF THE LEARNED ELDERS OF ZION (JEWISH
PLOT FOR WORLD DOMINANCE)

I AM REQUESTING THE FIRST 100 PAGES WHICH CAN BE ASSESSED
FOR FREE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 28; CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS,
§16.11 AND §16.49 ON THE ABOVE INDICATED "SUBJECT"; PURSUANT TO TITLE
5 §554 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.

IF YOUR OFFICE WOULD SEND THE REQUESTED MATERIAL TO THE NAME
AND ADDRESS LETTERHEADED AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE IT WOULD BE
GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

Sincerely;

United States Dept. of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Records Management Division
170 Marcel Dr.
Winchester, Va. 22602-4843

22602-4843



GREETINGS,

I AM A CONCERNED CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND WOULD LIKE TO VIEW ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- THE PROTOCOLS OF THE LEARNED ELDERS OF ZION
- THE COMMUNIST RULES FOR REVOLUTION AND/OR THE 45 POINT STRATEGY DISCOVERED BY W. CLEON SKOUSEN, ASSISTANT TO J. EDGAR HOOVER, ON COMMUNIST AND FABIAN SOCIALIST INFILTRATION INTO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.
- THE BLACK MOFIA THAT OPERATED OUT OF PHILADELPHIA IN THE 1960'S AND 70'S AND THEIR ENVOIEMENT WITH THE BLACK MUSLIM MOVEMENT N.O.I



YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANKS
YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

RESPECTFULLY



b6

28 JAN 2014



U.S. DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU of INVESTIGATIONS
170 MARCEL DRIVE
WINCHESTER VA. 22602

RECEIVED
FEB 03 2014

22602484370



September 1, 2014

Dear Mr. David Hardy:

Sir I'm writing you to request a copy of the file that you currently have on "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion", under the freedom of information Act. Sir let it be noted that I'm grateful for all of your assistance. Your time & efforts are immensely appreciated. God Bless!

Sincerely,

b6



004434703
SQ 280
03 SEP '14
FN 11



F. B. I.

U.S. Dept. of Justice

170 Wakeel Drive

Winchester, VA 22602-4843

22602484370



OCT 06 2014

January 4, 2015

FBI
170 Murriel Dr.
Winchester, VA 22602

RE: Request of a file

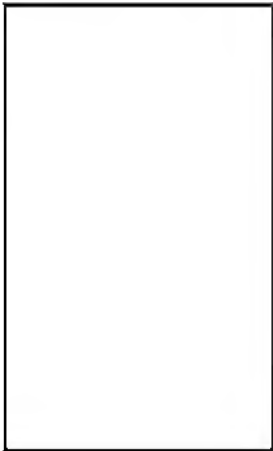
To whom it concerns;

I'm requesting to have the file "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion." I would be most grateful for your assistance.

The return address is at the top & bottom left of page.

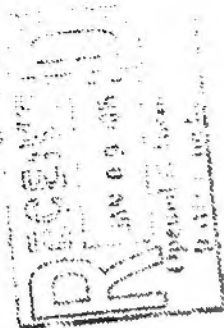
Sincerely

7 9 2015



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170 Marcel Dr.
Winchester, VA 22602

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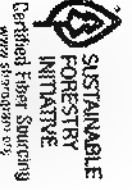
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RECEIVED

JAN 5 2015



MAIL ROOM



THIS ENVELOPE IS RECYCLABLE AND MADE WITH 30% POST CONSUMER WASTE

Ch. DeBartolo et al.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
170 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Mr. DeBartolo: I am writing to you regarding the information
you have provided to the Bureau of Investigation. The information
you have provided is being reviewed and we will be in contact with you
again as soon as we have more information.

[Redacted]

Very truly,
John Edgar Hoover

29 JAN 2011

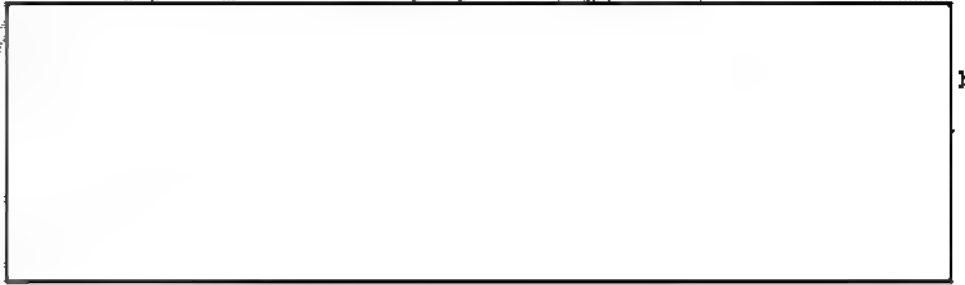
U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
170 Marcol Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843

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10. 20 1. 1944

It is when 31 May 1944
the 1st Airborne Division sent the 1st Parachute Battalion
to the 1st Airborne Division to the 1st Airborne Division
to the 1st Airborne Division to the 1st Airborne Division



b6

10. 20 1. 1944

10. 20 1. 1944

Jan. 27, 2020

Request No.
1457470-000

b6

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am in receipt of your response to my previous letter requesting information from the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to examine the documents contained in the "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion".

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 23, 2020



b6

FOIPA Request No. 1457470-000

Subject: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request to the FBI

The FOIPA number listed above has been assigned to your request; however, your letter did not contain sufficient information to conduct an accurate search of the Central Records System. Please provide the below information:

Full Name: [Redacted]

Current Address: [Redacted]

Date of Birth: [Redacted]

Place of Birth: [Redacted]

Daytime Telephone Number: [Redacted]

Please provide any additional information to assist the FBI with our search for records, such as prior addresses, employments, aliases, approximate time frame for the information sought.



"The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion"

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare that I am the person named above and I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1001 by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than five years, or both; and that requesting or obtaining any record(s) under false pretenses is punishable under the provisions of Title 5 U.S.C. § 552a (i)(3), as a misdemeanor and by a fine of not more than \$5,000. The signature must be legible.

Signature: [Redacted]

Date: Jan 27, 2020

If you submitted your request through the FBI's eFOIPA portal and you are receiving correspondence through standard mail, it was determined your request did not meet the eFOIPA terms of service.

Fax your request to the Work Process Unit at (540) 866-4997, or mail to 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602. If we do not receive a response from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, your request will be closed. You must include the FOIPA Request Number with any communication regarding this matter.

100-443887-100
JAN 11 1964
FBI - NEW YORK
JAN 11 1964
JAN 11 1964

Freedom of Information Act
U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1700 Market Avenue
Winchester, VA 22602-4403

[illegible][illegible]

New Address: [REDACTED]
 Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
 Name: [REDACTED]
 Current Address: [REDACTED]

I would like to receive a copy of the
 "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion"

I've recently learned of these writings and would like
 to read them. I've been receiving info from Hildark
 College and corresponding with them about the Constitution.
 Any help in receiving this info or anything else educational
 would be appreciated greatly. Thank You in Advance..

Respectfully
 [REDACTED]

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is

b6

and I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act requesting a copy of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

I understand that you would want certain identifying information. It is as follows:

Prior Address:

Current Address:

I am currently incarcerated, therefore I am requesting that my fees be waived. Thank you for all of your assistance.

Sincerely,



CHAMBERLAIN

17 MAR 20 1944

Federal Bureau of Investigation

170 Marcel Drive

Winchester, Va. 22602

22602 - 1000000000

22602 - 1000000000

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
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From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:50 PM
To: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: RE: ADL "Protocols" Message

[REDACTED]

b7E

From: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: ADL "Protocols" Message

b7E

Best number to call

-

On Aug 19, 2020 5:37 PM, "Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
Need to talk ASAP please. Thanks.

b7E

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - ADL "Protocols" Message

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b7E

Brian –

As discussed; issue is getting growing play nationally. The below is the ADL internal directions with a link to our external tweet. Bureau may want to get ahead of this as more radical entities respond. Here if you need anything.

RDs and regional staff:

Many of you have received public inquiries today about a tweet from the FBI Records Vault that disseminated a link labeled, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." Since there's been widespread confusion about the FBI's motives for doing this, and concern that in doing so the FBI is spreading an antisemitic text, we published the following explainer on our website, which we will also be tweeting out shortly.

<https://www.adl.org/news/article/the-fbi-shared-antisemitic-protocols-on-twitter>

Our law enforcement team is reaching out to the FBI to notify them about concerns that the tweet should have included more context about "The Protocols."

Feel free to share this link with anyone who asks about the FBI tweet.



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From: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:51 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: FW: ADL "Protocols" Message

[REDACTED]

b5

-

On Aug 19, 2020 5:48 PM, "Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
Just spoke with Brian Hale. I'm in the office and available to chat.

b7E

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 5:45 PM, "Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
Calling him back shortly

b7E

-

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED]
Date: Aug 19, 2020 5:37 PM
Subject: FW: ADL "Protocols" Message
To: "Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED]
Cc:
Need to talk ASAP please. Thanks.

b7E

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - ADL "Protocols" Message

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Feel free to share this link with anyone who asks about the FBI tweet.



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ADL
American Jewish
Defenders of Liberty



From: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:12 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Subject: Fwd: FW: ADL "Protocols" Message

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[REDACTED]

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-
On Aug 19, 2020 6:11 PM, "Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
Thx Arlene. [REDACTED]

b7E

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED].when something vaults the first time, a tweet goes
out alerting the public to the material.

b5

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 6:00 PM, "Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
All good!

b7E

-
On Aug 19, 2020 5:48 PM, "Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
Just spoke with Brian Hale. I'm in the office and available to chat.

b7E

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 5:45 PM, "Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:
Calling him back shortly

b7E

-
----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED]
Date: Aug 19, 2020 5:37 PM
Subject: FW: ADL "Protocols" Message
To: "Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED]
Cc:
Need to talk ASAP please. Thanks.

b7E

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] ADL "Protocols" Message

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Brian –

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Our law enforcement team is reaching out to the FBI to notify them about concerns that the tweet should have included more context about "The Protocols."

Feel free to share this link with anyone who asks about the FBI tweet.

[REDACTED]

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b7C

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[REDACTED] Thanks
so much!

b5

-
On Aug 19, 2020 6:21 PM, "Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote:

b7E

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)" [REDACTED]
Date: Aug 19, 2020 5:03 PM
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

b5

Mike

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On Aug 19, 2020 4:54 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED]
Unit Chief, FOIA Litigation Unit

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of the General Counsel

[REDACTED] (office)
[REDACTED] (mobile)

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Confidentiality Statement:

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(unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling [REDACTED]

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On Aug 19, 2020 4:47 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

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I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

Thank you,

b6

b7C

From: [REDACTED]

b6

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM

b7C

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]

b7E

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature/propaganda was publicly shared. See below /.

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Thoughts on providing a statement?

[REDACTED]

Thank you [REDACTED]

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Media inquiries:

1. I'm a reporter with Heavy.com writing about the records vault today releasing a copy of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, along with some related correspondence that appears to include J. Edgar Hoover. The release, at least on Twitter, sparked a panic in some and concerns the bureau may have been hacked. Can anyone give us a comment or some context for the release of the document today?
2. Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account @FBIRecordsVault shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," an infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this

account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Thursday, August 20, 2020

b7E

Mobile version and searchable archives available at [REDACTED]

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 6:30 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING THE NEWS

- Barr Announces More Than 1,000 Arrests In Operation Legend.

PROTESTS

- FBI Helping Portland, Oregon Police Probe Protest Bombing.
- FBI Seeks Two In Connection To Federal Property Damage In Raleigh, North Carolina During May Protests.
- Rhode Island Man Charged In Burning Of Police Cruiser.
- Cleveland Man Charged With Setting County Van On Fire During May 30 Riot.
- US Charges New York Man In NYPD Vehicle Fire.
- Air Force Airman Charged In Utah Police Car Arson During May Protests.
- Police Across US Arrest Protesters Using Facial Recognition Matches.
- Morgenstern: Trump Filling Void In Leadership At Local Level.
- Violent Protests Estimated To Have Claimed Lives Of 30 Victims.
- Texas Governor Threatens Property Tax Freeze For Cities That Defund Police.
- NYTimes Analysis: Progressives Pushing For Systemic Change Dissatisfied With Biden's Position.
- Some States Mull Laws To Restrict Police Behavior.
- New Air Force Chief Prepared To Tackle Racial Issues.
- Audio Of Investigators' Interview With Officer Involved In Floyd's Killing Released.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

- "Satanist" Former Soldier Sentenced In Kansas Bomb Plot.
- Federal Prosecutors Seeking Ten-Year Sentence For Former Indiana Woman In ISIS Financing Case.
- Former Army Soldier Sentenced For Distributing Bomb Information.
- US Drops Death Penalty Request Against ISIS "Beatles."
- Berlin Highway Attack Suspect "Moved To Psychiatric Jail."

OTHER NEWS

- Former FBI Lawyer Pleads Guilty To Doctoring CIA Email In Carter Page Warrant.
- NYTimes Analysis: Report Raises Questions About Trump's Truthfulness With Mueller Team.
- Former DHS CoS: "It Felt Like" Trump "Was On The Russian Team."
- Former State Department Official Says He Destroyed Records At Steele's Request.
- Appeals Court Grants Stone's Request To Dismiss Conviction Appeal.
- Warner: US Election Requires "Well-Educated Electorate About Russian Tactics."
- Fake CIA Spy "Fooled Everyone And Swindled Millions."
- Opinion: US Governmental Spying On Citizens "Proceeds Unabated."

- Evanina Warns Of Cyber Threats In Extended Vote Counting Period.
- US Intelligence: Local Officials In China Suppressed Information About Coronavirus Dangers.
- NSCS Provides Guidance For Contractors "As Huawei Ban Takes Hold."
- NSA Issues Guidance To Help "Limit Location Data Exposure."

CRIME & INVESTIGATIONS

- FBI Helping Probe Murder Of Kentucky Girl And Her Father.
- Sentencing Hearing Continues For "Golden State Killer."
- FBI Releases New Details On Remains Recovered In Kentucky.
- Army Veteran Sentenced For Stolen Valor.
- Tennessee Woman Faces Murder Charges In Daughter's Death.
- Judge In NXIVM Case Criticizes Attorney For Claiming Heiress Did Not Fund Sex Cult.
- Undocumented Immigrant Identified As Murderer Of New Mexico Woman.
- Continuing Coverage: Mississippi Man Arrested On Charges Of Seeking Murder-For-Hire.
- Continuing Coverage: Massachusetts Man Charged With Attempted Extortion.
- FBI Investigating Disappearance Of Louisiana Man.
- FBI Investigating Ohio Priest Over Sex Trafficking.
- Maryland Woman Arrested For Bank Robbery.
- Former California Police Officer Sentenced For Bribery.
- West Virginia Couple Indicted For Obstruction Of Justice.
- More Than 1,100 Pounds Of Marijuana Found In Truck At US-Canada Border Crossing.
- Investigation Leads To Record Drug Bust In California.
- Meth Case Defendant Pleads Guilty.
- Drug Task Force Arrests Two Maryland Residents.

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

- US Charges Michigan Man With Coronavirus Fraud.
- Two Sentenced In North Carolina Corruption Probe.
- Judge Sets New Trial Date For Los Angeles Councilman In Corruption Probe.
- Attorneys For Chicago Alderman Challenge Evidence In Bribery Probe.
- Florida Public Officials Charged With Theft Of Public Funds.
- Ex-Ohio House Speaker Needs More Time To Find Attorney.
- Former New Jersey Car Dealer Pleads Guilty To Wire Fraud.
- New Jersey Man Indicted On Public Corruption Charges.
- "Lottery Lawyer," Associates Allegedly Defrauded Lotto Winners Out Of \$107M.
- FBI Probing Fundraising At Firm Linked To Bannon, Wengui.
- Catholic Charities Of Southern Nevada Pays \$206K To Settle Fraud Probe.
- US Charges Florida City Officials In \$5M Hurricane Debris Removal Scheme.
- Attorneys Agree On Sentencing Date In Hawaii Corruption Case.
- US Charges New Jersey Man With Bribery.
- Businessman In St Louis Bribery Probe Gets Coronavirus In Prison.

CYBER DIVISION

- Trump Offers Support For Oracle's TikTok Bid.
- FBI Launches Election Messaging Campaign In California.
- Chinese Telecom Ban Has "Unclear Requirements" For Industry.
- Trump Set To Ban WeChat Despite Lobbying By American Companies.
- Taiwan Announces China Hacked At Least Ten Government Agencies.
- Michael Morell Interviews NSA's Neuberger On Election Security.
- TikTok Signals Intentions To Remain In US "For The Long Run."
- FBI, CISA Officials Take Part In "Election Security Simulation."
- Marnott Sued Over Data Breach.
- CRA Says It Notified Victims Of Data Hack "Long Before Breaches Confirmed."
- Huawei "Suffers" Under US Pressure.

AMERICAN NEWS

- FBI Lab Processed Electronic Evidence In Daybell Criminal Probe.
- DNA Technology Leads To Charges Against Suspected Serial Rapist.

ANALYSIS

- Researchers Devise Attacks Targeting Email End-To-End Encryption.

CRIME & JUSTICE

- FBI Twitter Account Linked To Files On "Protocols Of Elders Of Zion."
- FBI Houston Explains How Bank Robbers Are Nicknamed.

WORLD AFFAIRS & NEWS

- Trump Urges Boycott Of Goodyear Over Ban On MAGA Garb, "Blue Lives Matter."
- Adams: Public-Private Partnerships Driving Development Of Vaccine.
- Fauci And NIH's Collins Blocked Authorization Of Plasma To Treat Covid-19.
- Birx Discusses Coronavirus Response With West Virginia Officials.
- Wilkie Touts VA's Handling Of Virus.
- Adams Declines Politicization Of Coronavirus.
- Adams Urges Illinois To Take Steps To Lower Test Positivity Rate.
- Adams: Georgia's Coronavirus Test Positivity Is Trending Down.
- New York Governor Regrets Not Mandating Masks Sooner.
- Campaign Declines To Say Whether Or Not Biden Has Been Tested.
- Roche To Partner With Regeneron To Create An Antibody Cocktail For COVID-19.
- Daily Average Caseload Across DC Region Falls To Lowest Level In A Month.
- Data Suggests Child Abuse Is Being Underreported During Pandemic.
- Administration Willing To Consider \$25B For USPS.
- Ross Says Census Bureau Will Meet September 30 Deadline.
- Former Democratic State AGs Oppose Liberal Court-Packing Effort.
- Facebook Removes 790 QAnon Groups.
- Morell, Vickers: Pardoning Snowden Would Damage US National Security.
- American Universities Mull Measures To Protect Students From China's National-Security Law.
- New York City Teachers Threaten To Strike Over Inadequate Safety Measures In Reopening Plans.
- Universities Struggle To Enforce Rules Preventing Spread Of Coronavirus.
- Schools Exploring Outdoor Learning Face Practical, Logistical Hurdles.
- Cavanaugh, James: States Should Repeal Rules That Restrict Hospitals From Expanding Services.
- Taylor: Trump's Focus On Immigration Kept DHS Officials From Working On Other Issues.
- Kudlow: Economy Rebounding "Very Strongly."
- Pelosi Under Pressure From Her Caucus To Vote On Extending Jobless Aid.
- Professor: Senate Has "Rolled Over" As Trump Abuses Process For Appointing Senior Officials.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Venezuela's Government Denouncing People Exposed To Coronavirus As "Bioterrorists."
- France Reports Spike In New Coronavirus Cases.
- European Governments Trying To Prevent Second Wave Without Resorting To Strict Lockdowns.
- Administration To Request That UN Initiate "Snapback" Sanctions Against Iran.
- Treasury Sanctions UAE-Based Companies Over Ties To Iranian Airline.
- Iranian "Ghost Ships" Reappear On Radar After Months Of Silence.
- Syria Gives Russia Additional Land To Expand Air Base.
- Pompeo Says US "Keeping Its Eye On" Saudi Nuclear Ambitions.
- Administration Advancing Arms Sale To UAE.
- Palestinians Denounce Israel-UAE Deal In Protest Organized By Hamas.
- Pompeo Dismisses Invitation To Visit China, Calling It A "PR Stunt."
- Russia's Defense Ministry Says US Spy Planes Were Intercepted Above Black Sea.
- UN Accused Of Racism Over Survey Question Asking Staff If They Are "Yellow."

- Critics Accuse Trudeau Of Covering Up Ethics Scandal By Suspending Parliament.
- US Joins France And UN In Denouncing Mali Coup.
- Lukashenko Vows To Crack Down On Anti-Government Protests In Belarus.
- WSJournal: Kerry Glosses Over Obama's Numerous Failures In Foreign Policy.
- WSJournal: Venezuela Using Stranded Americans As Political Leverage.

THE BOTTOM LINE

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON NEWS

- Today's Events In Washington.

LEADING TOP NEWS

Barr Announces More Than 1,000 Arrests In Operation Legend.

USA Today (8/19, Johnson, 10.31M) reports that Attorney General Barr announced yesterday in Kansas City that "teams of federal and local authorities have made more than 1,000 arrests, including suspects in 90 homicides, as part of a national crackdown on violent crime in nine US cities." The announcement "comes more than a month after the Trump administration launched the enforcement effort, known as Operation Legend." USA Today adds that "last week, Kansas City, Missouri, authorities announced the arrest of a suspect in the slaying of LeGenD Taliferro, a 4-year-old murder victim for whom the effort was named, after about 200 federal agents had been dispatched to the city." The Washington Examiner (8/19, Dunleavy, 448K) quotes Barr as saying, "For us, LeGenD is a symbol of the many hundreds of innocent lives that have been taken in the recent upsurge in crime in many of our urban areas. ... His life mattered, and the lives of all of those victims mattered. His name should be remembered, and his senseless death, like those of all the other victims in this recent surge, should be unacceptable to all Americans."

The Washington Times (8/19, Mordock, 492K) reports that out of all the arrests, "more than 200 defendants have been charged with federal crimes, including 90 murder suspects and nearly 400 guns have been taken off the streets." Said Barr, "Operation Legend is the heart of the federal government's response to this uptick in violent crime. ... Its mission is to save lives, solve crimes and take violent offenders off our streets before they can claim more victims." Barr also said, "Rather than demonizing or defunding police, we are supporting and strengthening our law enforcement partners at the state and local level." The AP (8/19, Stafford) also points out "Barr said the increase in violent crime in the last two years is due in part to efforts by activists to defund police in response to protests of racial inequality," and Newsweek (8/19, Grzeszczak, 1.53M) that he "blamed the rise in violent crime in cities across the US on efforts to 'demonize' police officers and defund their work."

KCTV-TV Kansas City, MO (8/19, Jones, Smith, 133K) reports, "Speaking at a press conference with Taliferro's parents, FBI officials, U.S. attorneys and Kansas City police chief Rick Smith, Barr offered the arrest in LeGenD's case and others as examples of how the effort is working. 'So far, the federal-state task forces involved in Operation Legend have made almost 1,500 arrests. Many of those arrests are for violent state crimes, including more than 90 homicides, like LeGenD Taliferro's,' Barr said. 'That's more than 90 suspected killers who might still be on the streets without Operation Legend, and in many cities the operation is just getting started.'" KCTV-TV adds, "Charon Powell, Taliferro's mother, thanked the assembled officers for their work. 'I just want to say thank you for everyone who had a hand in solving my son's case,' Powell said. 'I also want to thank the community because I know for a fact we had a lot of tips in my son's case.'"

The Washington Post (8/19, Zapotosky, 14.2M) says that "in any other administration, the program might have been noncontroversial," but "President Trump announced its expansion last month just as tension hit a boiling point between protesters and federal law enforcement in Portland, Ore., and he took aim at Democratic leaders who he asserted were failing to keep their cities safe."

Fox News (8/19, Wallace, 27.59M) recounts that "first launched in Kansas City, Operation Legend expanded to Chicago and Albuquerque on July 22, to Cleveland, Detroit, and Milwaukee on July 29, to St. Louis and Memphis on August 6, and to Indianapolis on August 14." Fox adds "the latest figures on charges and arrests do not include Indianapolis, whose operation was first announced last Friday." The New York Post (8/19, Nelson, 4.57M) says "the most federal charges are in Chicago, with 61 cases."

The Kansas City (MO) Star (8/19, Nozicak, Bernard, 549K) reports that "locally, 18 people have been arrested for homicides. Five have been charged at the state level, US Attorney Timothy Garrison said at a news conference Wednesday with...Barr." The Star adds that "in an email after the news conference, Don Ledford, a spokesman for the US Attorney's Office in Kansas City, clarified that seven defendants have been charged in six local homicides." The Kansas City (MO) Northeast News (8/19, Hoover) reports, "U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri Tim Garrison said the agents were sent to support, not supplant, the local department. Kansas City has had 124 homicides so far this year. 'In June Kansas City had more than three killings every four days,' Garrison said. 'Since our announcement on July the 8th, that rate has been reduced to fewer than three killings every five days.'" Garrison "said the clearance rate, the rate of homicides that are solved and referred to the prosecutor has increased from 34% on June 1 to 45% today."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Johnson, 632K) quotes Barr saying, "For us, LeGend is a symbol of the many hundreds of innocent lives that have been taken in the recent upsurge of crime in many of our cities this summer. His life mattered; his name should be remembered. And his senseless death, like that of other innocent victims during the recent surge of violent crime, should be unacceptable to all Americans."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Hughes, 632K) recounts that "after arresting more than 30 suspects in Milwaukee as a part of Operation Legend, federal investigators have filed federal gun and drug charges against 11 people," and adds "the program has come under scrutiny after unmarked federal agents in Portland, Oregon, arrested protesters of police brutality without recording their detention." However, "Barr and Matthew Krueger, the US attorney for Wisconsin's Eastern District, have maintained that federal agents sent under Operation Legend have focused on violent crime and not protests."

The Memphis (TN) Commercial Appeal (8/19, Kennedy, 338K) reports, "Seven people have been arrested in Memphis and charged with federal crimes as the result of Operation LeGend, U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr said Wednesday." In Memphis, "one person was charged with possessing a firearm while being in the United States unlawfully. Two individuals were charged with using a controlled substance and possessing a firearm as well as making 'a material false statement when acquiring a firearm from a Federal Firearms Licensee.' One person, who resides in Memphis, was charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in an out-of-district federal case. Two cases remain under seal, but the Department of Justice said that one individual has been charged with bank robbery and two individuals were charged with theft from a Federal Firearms Licensee."

The Detroit News (8/19, Hunter, 825K) reports Barr "announced Wednesday they've charged 22 people with felonies in Detroit under Operation Legend, a multi-jurisdictional initiative launched last month to fight violent crime." The federal charges "include two people charged with

carjacking, 14 charged with being felons in possession of firearms, and two charged with receiving firearms while under indictment." Breitbart (8/19, Caplan, 673K) and Townhall (8/19, Pavlich, 177K), among other news outlets, also report the story.

Among local television outlets posting news of Operation LeGend on their websites are KSHB-TV Kansas City, MO (8/19, White, 90K), KMOV-TV St. Louis (8/19, 362K), WEWS-TV Cleveland (8/19, Scofield), WKYC-TV Cleveland (8/19, Carey, 223K), WDAF-TV Kansas City, MO (8/19, O'Brien, 242K), and WFLD-TV Chicago (8/19, Ewing, 42K).

RESULTS

FBI Helping Portland, Oregon Police Probe Protest Bombing.

The Oregonian (8/19, Ryan, Rambo, 1M) reports, "Federal authorities are helping Portland police investigate after an explosive device was thrown at protesters and media members earlier this month in Laurelhurst Park." Portland police "on Tuesday said the FBI is assisting in their investigation into the Aug. 8 incident. The agency also said it had received an unexploded device that will be sent for forensic analysis." The Oregonian adds, "Video footage of the incident shows an explosive device being thrown at protesters and some members of the press as a small group gathered in the park after protesters were largely dispersed by police. The video didn't show who tossed the three devices – two of which detonated. No one was hurt."

The Portland (OR) Tribune (8/19, Redden, 92K) reports, "In a Tuesday afternoon press release, the Portland Police Bureau said a person named as a suspect on social media has contacted them, but no eye witnesses have come forward to help with the investigation. Police said the possible suspect, Louis Garrick Fernbaugh, has a lawyer and has not made a statement. Although police have now obtained an unexploded device taken from the scene, that is apparently not enough for an arrest. 'Mr. Fernbaugh has not been cleared at this time and unless a witness, who was actually present, comes forward to investigators connecting him directly to the crime, he will not be arrested,' police said in the Aug. 18 statement. According to police, the FBI is now assisting with the investigation."

Portland Protesters Set Fire Inside County Building. The Washington Post (8/19, Shepherd, 14.2M) reports, "A crowd of protesters marched to a county building in southeast Portland, Ore., Tuesday night, where a handful of people in masks and all-black outfits threw rocks through the windows and lit a small fire inside, marking the 83rd night of protests in Portland that have led to millions of dollars in damages to city property, officials said." The fires "inside the building remained relatively small, leaving behind scorched curtains and piles of ash on desks near the shattered windows." According to officials, "the flames did not burn for long, but they grew large enough to set off alarms and trigger the sprinkler system."

Suspect In Portland Truck Attack Has Lengthy Criminal Record. The New York Post (8/19, Golding, Eustachewich, 4.57M) reports, "A Black Lives Matter protester wanted for allegedly knocking out a driver in Portland has a lengthy rap sheet in Oregon, including charges of domestic assault and theft, records show." Marquise Love has been "jailed at least seven times over the past eight years in Washington County, the sheriff's office there said." Love has faced charges ranging from domestic assault and domestic harassment, to criminal trespass, and driving offenses.

FBI Seeks Two In Connection To Federal Property Damage In Raleigh, North Carolina During May Protests.

WNCN-TV Raleigh-Durham, NC (8/19) reports from Raleigh, North Carolina, "The FBI is asking for the public's help identifying two people who may have information about damage to two federal buildings during the violence in downtown Raleigh on May 31. Both the Terry Sanford Federal Building, located at 310 New Bern Ave., and the Century Station Federal Building, located at 300 Fayetteville St., sustained what the FBI said was 'significant damage' the night of May 31 from a number of suspects." The buildings "suffered broken windows and were vandalized with graffiti with the damage totaling \$11,000, the FBI said. On Tuesday, the FBI released images of two people who may have information on the vandalism."

WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (8/19, 338K) reports, "Protests in downtown Raleigh in the wake of George Floyd's death in police custody in Minnesota days earlier escalated into riots on May 30 and May 31. Businesses were vandalized and looted, and numerous fires were set downtown. Law enforcement deployed tear gas and fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. The FBI and the Federal Protective Service division of the Department of Homeland Security said a woman and a man seen in footage from numerous security cameras downtown on May 31 may have information about the damage to the two federal buildings."

Rhode Island Man Charged In Burning Of Police Cruiser.

The Cranston (RI) Patch (8/19, Arnold, 1.03M) reports, "A 30-year-old Cranston man was arrested on Tuesday and charged for his involvement in the burning and destruction of a Providence police cruiser during a night of heavy protesting and looting in early June, the U.S. District Attorney for Rhode Island announced on Wednesday." Nicholas L. Scaglione "was one of two Rhode Island men arrested and charged after a federal complaint was filed in conjunction with malicious destruction of vehicle by fire. His arrest comes after Luis Joel Sierra, 34, Providence, was arrested on a federal complaint and charged with the same offense last week. According to a news release, a joint investigation between the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Providence Police and the U.S. Attorney's Office determined that Sierra set a Providence police vehicle on fire by leaning inside the cruiser and igniting the blaze with lighter fluid."

Cleveland Man Charged With Setting County Van On Fire During May 30 Riot.

WEWS-TV Cleveland (8/19) reports from Cleveland, Ohio, "A 22-year-old Cleveland man is facing a felony charge for his alleged role in the destruction of government property during the May 30 riot in Downtown Cleveland." Martino Andrews, 22, "is charged with aggravated arson, a first-degree felony. Court records state Andrews was captured on video participating in the destruction of a Dodge Caravan, owned by Cuyahoga County, during the May 30 riot." WEWS-TV adds, "Records allege Andrew hit the county van, which was parked on Ontario south of Lakeside, multiple times with a baseball bat before setting the van on fire with a cloth rag. Since the riot, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Cleveland Division, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office, and the Cleveland Police Department have launched an investigation into criminal activity from that event, hoping the public can help identify anyone allegedly involved in the damaging of property in Downtown Cleveland."

US Charges New York Man In NYPD Vehicle Fire.

The Queens (NY) Chronicle (8/14, Gannon, 157K) reports, "An Elmhurst man has been charged with arson in federal court for allegedly setting fire to an NYPD vehicle in Manhattan in the early morning hours of July 29." According to the Chronicle, "The complaint against Sam Resto, 29, alleges that he purchased gasoline in Elmhurst the evening of July 28 and traveled to the vicinity of West 83rd Street in Manhattan, smashed a window on the marked vehicle and poured the

gasoline inside before allegedly lighting it on fire.” William Sweeney, “assistant director in charge at the FBI’s New York Field Office, said things could have turned out far worse. ‘When Resto set an NYPD van ablaze last month, as we allege today, his actions not only destroyed essential public safety equipment paid for by the people of New York City, he placed the personal safety of those living in the neighborhood and their private property into harm’s way,’ Sweeney said.”

Air Force Airman Charged In Utah Police Car Arson During May Protests.

The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (8/19, Shenefelt, 91K) reports from West Haven, Utah, “The FBI arrested a Hill Air Force Base airman at his home in West Haven on Wednesday on accusations that he helped destroy a police car during protests in Salt Lake City.” The Standard-Examiner adds, “An indictment in U.S. District Court charged Larry Raynold Williams Jr., 22, with arson in the destruction of a patrol car during protests May 30. Williams is the fifth person to be charged in the arson case, the FBI said Wednesday afternoon in a press release. The arrest was made by the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force. The investigation was helped by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Hill, the release said.”

KTVX-TV Salt Lake City (8/19, Karalis) reports that Williams “was arrested Wednesday by the FBI and members of its Joint Terrorism Task Force with the assistance of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.” KTVX-TV adds, “The arson occurred during the riots in Salt Lake City on May 30 after a peaceful protest downtown turned violent. A Salt Lake City police officer was driving her police vehicle and became boxed-in by surrounding protestors. The officer was able to flee from her patrol car which was then overturned, vandalized, and set on fire. Video footage from the event shows individual rioters using fire and explosives to damage and destroy the vehicle.”

Police Across US Arrest Protesters Using Facial Recognition Matches.

Ars Technica (8/19, 1.36M) reports, “Law enforcement in several cities, including New York and Miami, have reportedly been using controversial facial recognition software to track down and arrest individuals who allegedly participated in criminal activity during Black Lives Matter protests months after the fact.” Ars Technica adds, “Miami police used Clearview AI to identify and arrest a woman for allegedly throwing a rock at a police officer during a May protest, local NBC affiliate WTVJ reported this week.” Miami Police Assistant Chief Armando Aguilar told NBC6 “We have used the technology to identify violent protesters who assaulted police officers, who damaged police property, who set property on fire. We have made several arrests in those cases, and more arrests are coming in the near future.”

Morgenstern: Trump Filling Void In Leadership At Local Level.

Brian Morgenstern was asked about protests in Portland, Oregon and other American cities on Fox Business The Evening Edit (8/19). Morgenstern said that “Americans can see what’s before their very eyes, which is rioting, it’s violence, and it’s unacceptable. And it’s unfortunate that President Trump has been really pushed into the position of leaning on this.” He said, “Unfortunately, the police power should be executed at the state and local level, but tolerance for these sorts of things has made it so the federal government has to step in and lead and the President is going to continue to do that, because the American people want safety in their streets, they want their neighborhoods to be safe.”

Violent Protests Estimated To Have Claimed Lives Of 30 Victims.

The Federalist (8/19, Davidson, 126K) reports, "An estimated 30 people have died after supposedly 'peaceful' protests erupted across the nation after George Floyd's death on May 25." The deaths have come under "mayhem" that includes "looting, violence, arson, vandalism, and damage to public property." According to the article, "a majority of their deaths were caused by shootings, but a select few were caused by being hit or dragged by cars."

Texas Governor Threatens Property Tax Freeze For Cities That Defund Police.

The Washington Post (8/19, Wolfrom, Berman, 14.2M) reports Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) "this week called for a ban on raising property taxes in any city that cuts police department funding, assailing plans to reduce police budgets as a threat to public safety." His announcement "came nearly a week after Austin's city council voted to slash its police budget by \$21.5 million, and as cities across the nation, responding to the widespread protests that followed George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, are being pressed to reevaluate the role of police." However, details of the proposal remain "unclear, including what would constitute 'defunding.'"

NYTimes Analysis: Progressives Pushing For Systemic Change Dissatisfied With Biden's Position.

The New York Times (8/19, Epstein, Eligon, 18.61M) reports Joe Biden's "reform-oriented" position on policing falls "well short of the demands of progressive activists who believe that police departments need to be significantly downsized or abolished." The divide between Biden and "his party's progressive flank was evident in a line he delivered during a discussion on the Democratic National Convention's opening night: 'Most cops are good, but the fact is, the bad ones need to be identified and prosecuted.'" The line "struck an array of activists as discordant at a moment when the police killing of George Floyd has spurred nationwide calls for transformational change."

Some States Mull Laws To Restrict Police Behavior.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Gershman, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Democratic lawmakers in states across the nation are pushing legislation that would remove the liability shield for law-enforcement officers who engage in misconduct and limit their use of force. Police unions and law-enforcement groups say they are willing to consider some of the accountability proposals, such as restrictions on physical force, but say opening officers to lawsuits will hinder them from doing their job.

New Air Force Chief Prepared To Tackle Racial Issues.

The Washington Post (8/19, Lamothe, 14.2M) reports Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., the first Black officer to head a branch of service, will "lead the Air Force through a period of transition that includes preparations for the rise of China, the establishment of the Space Force from Air Force personnel, new realities created by the coronavirus pandemic and long-standing racial equality issues within the service." The Post profiles Brown, chronicling his career, and in an interview, asks him about the Floyd protests and the challenges he faces in his new position. Brown discussed proposals under consideration to address racial equality in the service, saying: "It's not just me doing this. I think it's the senior leadership of the Air Force, and we've got to be in this together. Most of the senior parts of the Air Force are not African American, and so they've also got to buy into this as well."

Audio Of Investigators' Interview With Officer Involved In Floyd's Killing Released.

ABC World News Tonight (8/19, story 4, 1:40, Muir, 6.9M) reported that "newly released interview from one of the former police officers charged in the killing of George Floyd" reveals "what he claims he told the other officers about holding Floyd face down in handcuffs." ABC's Alex Perez added in Thomas Lane's interview with investigators, "the rookie cop says the officers thought Floyd was on drugs and says the more veteran officer, Derek Chauvin, who had his knee on Floyd's neck, directed how Floyd was restrained." Lane said, "I think I had said again, I think we should roll him onto his side. And I believe Chauvin said, you know, we have him, there's an ambulance coming, we got him, we're just going to hold here."

CO INTER-TERRORISM

"Satanist" Former Soldier Sentenced In Kansas Bomb Plot.

The AP (8/19, Hanna) reports from Topeka, Kansas, "An ex-soldier described by prosecutors as a Satanist and linked to a neo-Nazi group was sentenced Wednesday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for distributing information through social media about building a bomb and making napalm." The AP adds that US District Judge Daniel Crabtree "rejected a request from Jarrett William Smith's attorney for a lenient sentence of 15 months in prison followed by three years of supervised probation. Federal law called for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, but sentencing guidelines said the presumed punishment for a first-time offender like Smith was 2 1/2 years to a little over three years in prison." Judge Crabtree "said he was surprised that federal sentencing guidelines called for such a 'low' prison sentence for 'troubling and serious' criminal behavior."

Federal Prosecutors Seeking Ten-Year Sentence For Former Indiana Woman In ISIS Financing Case.

WBND-TV South Bend, IN (8/19, Hudson) reports, "The United States Attorney's Office is recommending a ten year sentence for former Elkhart resident Samantha Elhassani's conviction for financing terrorism. Elhassani pleaded guilty to financing terrorism in November 2019." WBND-TV adds, "In her plea agreement, Elhassani admitted to helping her husband and his brother join ISIS by taking two trips to Hong Kong to deposit more than \$30,000 in gold and cash in a safe deposit box. She admitted to melting down gold to make it look like jewelry so it wouldn't be disclosed on customs forms. Elhassani is facing a maximum of 10 years in prison, life probation and a \$250,000 fine."

The Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune (8/20, Kukulka, 1.8M) reports, "When she pleaded guilty in November, Elhassani confirmed that when her husband, Moussa Elhassani, and his brother intended to join ISIS, she made three trips to Hong Kong between November 2014 and August 2015 transporting more than \$30,000 in cash, gold and precious stones. Those assets were intended to be used by ISIS, she said."

Former Army Soldier Sentenced For Distributing Bomb Information.

The Horry (SC) Independent (8/19, 19K) reports, "A 24-year-old man from Conway was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison Wednesday for distributing instructions for making explosive devices over social media, U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister said in a news release." The Independent adds, "Earlier this year, Jarrett William Smith admitted to sharing the information while he was a member of the U.S. Army. The 2014 Carolina Forest High School graduate pleaded guilty to two counts of distributing information related to explosives, destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction. After his time in prison, officials said, Smith will serve three years

on supervised release." An FBI affidavit said that "the former Army private was suspected of giving out instructions on Facebook about building improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and discussing possible targets, including Antifa and a major news network headquarters."

US Drops Death Penalty Request Against ISIS "Beatles."

The Washington Post (8/19, Nakashima, 14.2M) reports Attorney General William Barr has notified "the British government that the United States will drop its insistence on the death penalty for two admitted Islamic State members if British authorities promptly transfer evidence to aid their prosecution for suspected involvement in the executions of American, British and other foreign hostages in Syria." In a letter Tuesday to "British Home Secretary Priti Patel, Barr said London has until Oct. 15 to provide assistance or the men would be transferred to the Iraqi government for prosecution in its justice system – which human rights activists say is tantamount to a death sentence." The case has been "tied up in litigation in Britain," as one of the men's mother has sued "to prevent the sharing of evidence – including voice analysis tying the men to the hostages and details about their path to Syria" in a capital case. Barr's concession "was seen as a possible means to break the impasse."

BBC News Online (UK) (8/19, 1.02M) reports the UK "has made clear that if the pair were sent to the controversial US military prison Guantanamo Bay – where suspects have been detained without trial – the UK would withhold intelligence."

The Telegraph (UK) (8/19, 956K) reports the DOJ "wants the UK to hand over intelligence on the two men, who have been stripped of their British citizenship, that would assist a prosecution." Washington is "seeking to try the pair in the Eastern District of Virginia."

The Washington Times (8/19, Mordock, 492K) also reports.

Berlin Highway Attack Suspect "Moved To Psychiatric Jail."

From Berlin, The AP (8/19, Greishaber) reports German authorities on Wednesday "ordered a 30-year-old man accused of deliberately driving his car into other vehicles along a major Berlin highway and injuring six people moved to a psychiatric jail, as investigators continue to probe the man's motives." Officials said the Iraq-born man "appeared to have carried out a deliberate attack late Tuesday motivated by Islamist ideology, but noted that he had been suffering from psychological problems." The suspect driving a "black Opel Astra allegedly struck three motorcycles at different locations on the Bundesautobahn 100, Berlin prosecutors and police said in a joint statement." He then stopped "on the highway and put an old ammunition box on the roof of his car, claiming it had explosives inside, the statement said."

COUNTER-INTelligence

Former FBI Lawyer Pleads Guilty To Doctoring CIA Email In Carter Page Warrant.

The AP (8/19, Tucker) reports that on Wednesday, Kevin Clinesmith, a former FBI lawyer, pleaded guilty "to altering a document related to the secret surveillance of a former Trump campaign adviser during the Russia investigation." Clinesmith pleaded "to a single false statement charge, admitting that he doctored an email that the FBI relied on" when it "sought court approval to eavesdrop on former Trump campaign aide Carter Page in 2017." Reuters (8/19, Lynch) reports Clinesmith "admitted to doctoring a CIA email the FBI used in 2017," but said, "At the time I believed that the information I was providing in the email was accurate," though "I am agreeing that the information I inserted into the email was not originally there, and I inserted that information."

PolitiCo (8/19, Gerstein, Cheney, 4.29M) notes the judge asked Clinesmith, "In other words, you agree you intentionally altered the email to include information that was not originally in the email?" Clinesmith replied, "Yes, your honor." The deal with Clinesmith "does not call for him to provide ongoing cooperation with prosecutors, although he did agree to be debriefed by FBI personnel working on a review of the law enforcement agency's filings with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court." The Washington Times (8/19, Mordock, 492K) recounts "US District Judge James Boasberg accepted the government's recommendation not to detain Clinesmith ahead of his sentencing, but did require him to surrender his passport and imposed travel restrictions."

USA Today (8/19, Phillips, Johnson, 10.31M) points out "the case against Clinesmith is the first to be brought by federal prosecutor John Durham, appointed last year by Attorney General William Barr to review the origins of the FBI's investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election." The New York Times (8/19, Savage, 18.61M) reports the Senate Intelligence Committee, "after its own three-year investigation that maintained a broader counterintelligence focus, built on those findings this week with a bipartisan report laying out an extensive web of contacts between Trump campaign advisers and Russian officials."

The Washington Examiner (8/19, Dunleavy, 448K) says Clinesmith "claimed in early 2017 that Page was 'not a source' for the CIA when the CIA had actually told the bureau on multiple occasions that Page was indeed an operational contact for them." Durham "submitted a five-page filing to the federal court on Friday, noting Clinesmith was being charged under 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(3) for 'False Statements.'"

The Washington Post (8/19, Zapotosky, Marimow, 14.2M) reports that "with the 2020 election approaching, Durham's probe has become the subject of intense partisan fights." Republicans "are hopeful the prosecutor will bring cases against higher level Justice Department or FBI officials who worked during the Obama administration, and validate their critiques of the Russia probe," while Democrats "fear Durham's exercise is a politically motivated attempt to undercut an investigation that dogged Trump's campaign and presidency, and they fear Barr might orchestrate a late revelation of his findings and alter the presidential race."

Fox News (8/19, Singman, 27.59M), Fox News (8/19, Halon, 27.59M), The Hill (8/19, Moreno, 2.98M), CBS News (8/19, Hymes, 3.68M), Newsweek (8/19, Grzeszczak, 1.53M), Law360 (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8K), the Daily Caller (8/19, Ross, 716K) and Townhall (8/19, Pavlich, 177K), among other news outlets, also report the story.

NYTimes Analysis: Report Raises Questions About Trump's Truthfulness With Mueller Team.

The New York Times (8/19, Barnes, 18.61M) reports in an analysis that the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on Russian election interference "made a startling conclusion endorsed by both Republicans and Democrats: Donald J. Trump knew of and discussed stolen Democratic emails at critical points late in his 2016 presidential campaign." The panel "rejected Mr. Trump's statement to prosecutors investigating Russia's interference that he did not recall conversations with his longtime friend Roger J. Stone Jr. about the emails, which were later released by WikiLeaks." The report "detailed even more of the president's conversations with Mr. Stone than were previously known, renewing questions about whether Mr. Trump was truthful with investigators for the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, or misled them, much as prosecutors convinced jurors that Mr. Stone himself misled congressional investigators about his efforts to contact WikiLeaks."

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Volz, Cullison, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says the report found fault with the FBI's handling of the investigation, writing that "many of the dossier's

specific allegations about the activities of individuals are uncorroborated" and that methods detailed fall short of US intelligence standards.

Report Says Manafort Pushed Narrative On Election Interference That Has Persisted Since. The Washington Post (8/19, Helderman, Hamburger, 14.2M) reports that according to the report, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort "began quickly working with a Russian employee based in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on a counternarrative – that it was the Ukrainians who were actually interfering in the U.S. election, not Russia, and that they were framing Manafort to help the Democrats." The claim "has persisted ever since, even after U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials said it had no merit." The narrative "has been embraced by Trump's allies in conservative media and in Congress. It was touted on the right during Trump's impeachment last year and has carried into the present as the backdrop to an ongoing GOP effort to use Ukraine to attack Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden."

The Washington Post (8/19, Blake, 14.2M) writes separately that the Senate Intelligence Committee's report "flatly labeled" Manafort as what it called "Russian intelligence officer." Not only does "the report say Manafort was in close and increasing contact with a Russian intelligence officer, but it flatly raises the possibility that both were involved in the centerpiece of Russia's efforts: the hacked emails." The report says "some evidence suggests Kilimnik may be connected to the [Russian] GRU hack-and-leak operation," though it's based on "a body of fragmentary information."

WSJournal, WPost/NYTimes Differ On Senate Report. A Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) editorial says supporters of the claim that President Trump's campaign colluded with Russia are using the absence of evidence in the Senate Intelligence Committee's final report on Russian interference in the 2016 election to revisit their allegations. The Journal calls the collusion accusations a political dirty trick, the origins of which will be revealed by US Attorney John Durham's investigation.

A Washington Post (8/19, 14.2M) editorial takes a decidedly different view of the report. The Post calls the committee's findings "explosive," and argues that the report and Trump's reaction to it "leave little doubt that Mr. Trump will welcome any aid Moscow provides." A New York Times (8/19, 18.61M) editorial says the report "shows clear coordination between Russians and the Trump campaign, though there is no evidence of an explicit agreement." The evidence "suggests Mr. Trump knew this at the time. Whether or not it can be proved that he ordered this interference or violated the law in doing so, the fact remains that neither he nor anyone else in his campaign alerted federal law-enforcement authorities, as any loyal American should have." The Times concludes, "There's no way to sugarcoat it. In less than three months, the American people could re-elect a man who received a foreign government's help to win one election and has shown neither remorse nor reservations about doing so again."

The Washington Post (8/19, 14.2M) columnist Eric Wemple writes that the flaws of the Steele dossier, "however, don't preoccupy the Senate report, which documents contacts between Trump aides and Russians." Wemple argues the report represents "nearly 1,000 pages of detail on all the ways that the so-called Russia collusion hoax was a bona fide story."

Former DHS CoS: "It Felt Like" Trump "Was On The Russian Team."

Politico (8/19, Swan, 4.29M) reports Miles Taylor, who served as chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security, claims that when it comes to "election security," President Trump "appeared to side with Russia," and "told Politico it often felt like his office had to fight against the president to secure U.S. elections from foreign meddling." Taylor said, "He was playing for the

other team, it felt like, a lot of the time. ... That's what it felt like. Sometimes it felt like the President was on the Russian team and not the American team."

Former State Department Official Says He Destroyed Records At Steele's Request.

The Daily Caller (8/19, Ross, 716K) reports that according to a Senate report released Tuesday, former State Department official Jonathan Winer "told the Senate Intelligence Committee he destroyed records in January 2017 at the request of former British spy Christopher Steele." Winer, "who served as special envoy to Libya through early 2017, was Steele's contact at the State Department." According to the report, Winer "disclosed that he destroyed reports that Steele had sent him over the years." The report says, "After Steele's memos were published in the press in January 2017, Steele asked Winer to make note of having them, then either destroy all the earlier reports Steele had sent the Department of State or return them to Steele, out of concern that someone would be able to reconstruct his source network." The report quotes Winer saying, "So I destroyed them, and I basically destroyed all the correspondence I had with him."

Appeals Court Grants Stone's Request To Dismiss Conviction Appeal.

The Washington Examiner (8/19, Leonardi, 448K) reports on Wednesday, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit "approved a request made by Stone to dismiss his appeal of a criminal conviction after President Trump fully commuted his sentence last month, preventing him from being required to report to prison." The court document read, "Upon consideration of appellant's unopposed motion to dismiss this appeal and the affidavit in support thereof, it is ORDERED that the motion be granted and this case dismissed."

Warner: US Election Requires "Well-Educated Electorate About Russian Tactics."

In an interview with Public Radio International (8/19, 28K), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) discusses the Senate Intelligence Committee's "fifth and final volume of its report on Russian interference...and its lessons for 2020." Warner says "clearly, there were more contacts, connections than had been previously reported," but that "what worries me the most is that we're now 70-plus days away from another election." Warner adds, "10 days ago, the American intelligence community said Russia will be back" and that other nations including China and Iran "also trying to interfere in our elections." Warner told PRI, "My job now is to keep the pressure on the intelligence community to become even more forthcoming with more information, more names about what we've learned so that we don't repeat the mistake of 2016."

Fake CIA Spy "Fooled Everyone And Swindled Millions."

The Daily Beast (8/19, Rohrlich, 1.39M) profiles Garrison Courtney, a "former DEA spokesman who got government officials and defense contractors to believe he was a Gulf War hero working on a top secret task force" as part of the CIA. At least a "dozen firms, including several successful defense contractors, bought into Courtney's wild stories, ultimately paying him more than \$4 million." Using fraudulent CIA and Pentagon documents, he accomplished this, "in part, by using public officials in the law-enforcement, military, and intelligence worlds as what federal prosecutors" described as "unwitting props." The pawns included a "former high-ranking Navy officer, someone in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and at least two officials at the Drug Enforcement Administration, where Courtney had been a spokesperson in the mid-2000s." The criminal case documents "don't name those drawn into Courtney's web of lies, but a related civil lawsuit reveals that one of his alleged associates was a former U.S. Army intelligence

officer named Virgil James Keith, and one of the public officials was Eileen K. Preisser, a senior Air Force liaison to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)."

Opinion: US Governmental Spying On Citizens "Proceeds Unabated."

In an op-ed for The Washington Times (8/19, 492K), contributor Andrew Napolitano writes that government spying is "a way of life for tens of thousands of government personnel, even outside the NSA." However, Napolitano concludes "all of them have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, which guarantees the right to privacy – privacy as a natural right, as the default position, with its invasion strictly limited to collect evidence of crimes from identified persons when authorized by a judge."

Evanina Warns Of Cyber Threats In Extended Vote Counting Period.

Bloomberg (8/19, Martin, Strohm, 4.73M) reports US national security officials "don't believe the outcome of the presidential election will be determined right away, giving foreign adversaries like Russia more time to interfere and sow doubt about the outcome, America's top election security official warned." NCSC Director William Evanina "said Wednesday that the country is in for a 'rocky' several weeks before the Nov. 3 vote." However, he "said his biggest concern is the likely influence campaigns expected after the election, when the race may be deadlocked and results trickle in due to mail-in ballots." Speaking online to the US Chamber of Commerce, Evanina said, "We need to prepare as a nation that the election will not be decided on November 3," citing his worry about election interference, ransomware attacks, cyberattacks, and "the inability of people to vote because of cyber penetrations and ransomware." The US has tracked "foreign adversaries doing digital surveillance of infrastructure that's not necessarily germane to elections but could have an impact on the results, Evanina said."

US Intelligence: Local Officials In China Suppressed Information About Coronavirus Dangers.

The New York Times (8/19, Wong, Barnes, Kanno-Youngs, 18.61M) reports, "Officials in Beijing were kept in the dark for weeks about the potential devastation of the virus by local officials in central China, according to American officials familiar with a new internal report by U.S. intelligence agencies." The report found that "officials in the city of Wuhan and in Hubei Province, where the outbreak began late last year, tried to hide information from China's central leadership." The new report "does not contradict the Trump administration's criticism of China, but adds perspective and context to actions – and inactions – that created the global crisis."

NSCS Provides Guidance For Contractors "As Huawei Ban Takes Hold."

Defense Systems (8/19, Rockwell, 93K) reports the deadline for federal contractors "to ditch Chinese gear and services in their contracts is here and vendors still have more questions than answers." The provision "bans government contractors from using technology and services tied to Chinese equipment manufacturers" deemed security threats, including Huawei, ZTE, and others. In advance of the "go-live date of the new policy, the National Counterintelligence and Security Center has been briefing acquisition personnel, CIOs and others on threats posed by the covered companies and their subsidiaries." NCSC Director William R. Evanina said in a statement, "These unprecedented briefings underscore NCSC's commitment to elevate supply chain security in the federal acquisition process, in keeping with the National Counterintelligence Strategy." Evanina added, "In partnership with the Office of Director of National Intelligence's National Intelligence Council, we are providing threat information on foreign efforts to subvert the U.S. supply chain

and empowering federal procurement and contracting officers who share in the responsibility for protecting the federal supply chain."

NSA Issues Guidance To Help "Limit Location Data Exposure."


NextGov (8/19, Jasper) reports recent NSA guidance describes "steps Defense Department and National Security Systems users should take to limit exposure of location data from devices like cell phones and smart watches." Neal Ziring, NSA Cybersecurity Directorate technical director, "told Nextgov in an email the coronavirus pandemic means cybersecurity risks are increasing." Ziring wrote, "COVID-19 has created an environment rich with opportunity for our cyber adversaries, risks – not just limited to location data exposure – are certainly increasing." Ziring added, "As long as mobile devices are being used, your location data could be exposed." Members of the federal workforce "should work with their home agency's security office to make certain they are following agency-specific guidelines regarding location data exposure, Ziring said."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

FBI Helping Probe Murder Of Kentucky Girl And Her Father.

The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (8/19, Kachmar, 368K) reports, "The FBI is helping Louisville Metro Police investigate the killing of a 3-year-old and her father at his home in the Jacobs neighborhood, federal officials said." The Courier-Journal adds, "LMPD, which is leading the investigation, has released scant details about the murders of Trinity Randolph and 21-year-old Brandon Waddles. They were at Waddles' family home on Kahlert Avenue in southern Louisville when they were shot multiple times and died in the early afternoon on Aug. 14. Trinity was playing in her 'Frozen' playhouse when she was killed, family members said. LMPD hasn't said whether there are any suspects and hasn't disclosed any information about the circumstances of the killings. 'We're helping (LMPD) in any way they ask,' FBI spokesman Tim Beam said."

Sentencing Hearing Continues For "Golden State Killer."

NBC Nightly News  (8/19, story 9, 1:45, Holt, 6.01M) reported, "In California today, powerful and heart-breaking memories from survivors and families as they confronted the man known as the Golden State Killer." NBC (Gosk) added, "Joseph DeAngelo, the Golden State Killer, will spend the rest of his life in prison, but first he is forced to face his victims in a courtroom and listen." DeAngelo "accepted a plea deal to escape the death penalty, admitting to 53 separate crimes, including dozens of rapes and 13 murders, in 11 different California counties." According to NBC, "It is hard to imagine today a crime spree so prolific and brazen going unsolved for so long. But in the 70s and 80s, he got away with it. DNA technology eventually leading to his arrest in 2018, more than 30 years after his last known murder."

FBI Releases New Details On Remains Recovered In Kentucky.

WLKY-TV Louisville, KY (8/19, Team, 79K) reports from Louisville, Kentucky, "The FBI has given new details on remains that were found in Nelson County in July in the days leading up to the federal agency announcing it was taking over the investigation into the disappearance of Crystal Rogers." According to WLKY-TV, "The remains were recovered July 24 near the border of Nelson and Washington counties. Those remains were then sent to the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia, for testing. According to an update from an FBI spokesperson, the initial findings on the remains include: they were those of a female, but several measurements fall within those of males. They said males cannot yet be excluded."

WHAS-TV Louisville, KY (8/19, McAlister, 99K) reports, "In a one on one interview, FBI Louisville's Assistant Special Agent in Charge Brian Jones said the agency has collected a lot of evidence in the Crystal Rogers investigation over the last two weeks. 'We did collect a substantial amount of evidence during the search warrants that we hope will lead to a conclusion in this investigation,' Jones said." The FBI "announced they were taking the lead in the Rogers' case in early August, however Jones said they have been working on the case much longer. 'For the past year, we've had a number of agents working nonstop on this case. That's all been behind the scenes. Now, it's in the open,' Jones said. Jones said the FBI has had around 75 agents and investigators from partner agencies in Nelson County executing search warrants and following up on interviews. He said the agency is working in partnership with Kentucky State Police and the IRS."

Army Veteran Sentenced For Stolen Valor.

The Army Times (8/19, Rempfer, 346K) reports, "An Army veteran who lied about receiving the Purple Heart and Silver Star medals received the maximum prison sentence of 12 months on Tuesday, according to the Justice Department." Gregg Ramsdell, 61, of Columbus, Georgia, "also received three years of supervised release and he was ordered by the court to repay \$76,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Ramsdell pleaded guilty in December to lying about serving in Afghanistan between 2008 and 2009. He also admitted to falsely claiming to have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder when he applied for disability payments through the VA in 2014, according to court records. 'Anyone who lies about serving our country to illegally take tax payer money from federal programs that help deserving veterans must be held accountable to the full extent of our laws,' said Chris Hacker, special agent in charge of FBI's Atlanta office, in a statement."

Tennessee Woman Faces Murder Charges In Daughter's Death.

The Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel (8/19, Satterfield, 307K) reports from Blountville, Tennessee, "A Sullivan County grand jury on Wednesday returned a presentment charging Megan Boswell in the death of her daughter, 15-month-old Evelyn Mae Boswell." The News Sentinel adds, "Sullivan County District Attorney General Barry Staubus said at a Wednesday evening news conference that Megan Boswell now faces 19 charges in her daughter's death, including felony murder and aggravated child abuse. The presentment – served up by the grand jury earlier Wednesday – does not offer details on how Evelyn died or an exact date of her death. It lists the date of death as 'on or about December 2019.'" Megan Boswell, 18, "is accused of killing her daughter under two separate legal theories – that the child's death resulted from an act of child abuse or that the child's death resulted from an act of child neglect, a Knox News review of the presentment shows."

Judge In NXIVM Case Criticizes Attorney For Claiming Heiress Did Not Fund Sex Cult.

The Albany (NY) Times Union (8/19, Gavin, 457K) reports, "A federal judge in Brooklyn will not sentence Seagram's heiress Clare Bronfman for her NXIVM-related crimes until Sept. 30, but he already has unloaded on her new defense attorney for downplaying her actions." Senior US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis "tore into attorney Ronald S. Sullivan Jr. on Tuesday when the lawyer scoffed at a pre-sentencing report tying the 41-year-old Bronfman to NXIVM leader Keith Raniere's cult-like enterprise and numerous crimes. The judge presided over Raniere's trial, which took place last year after all of his co-defendants, including Bronfman, pleaded guilty." Sullivan "told the judge that a pre-sentencing report suggesting his client financially backed Raniere's

'master/slave' group and sex-trafficking operations was demonstrably false. The attorney asked for a hearing to disprove the allegations. The judge quickly told the lawyer that if any such hearing takes place, Bronfman would have to testify."

Undocumented Immigrant Identified As Murderer Of New Mexico Woman.

The Albuquerque (NM) Journal (8/19, 196K) reports that the FBI has "identified an undocumented immigrant held in Texas since early this year as a suspect in the November 2019 fatal shooting of Jacque Vigil, the mother of two New Mexico State Police officers who was gunned down in her driveway on Albuquerque's West Side." Luis Talamantes, who is accused of being a member of the Juanitos Maravilla street gang, has "been held since Jan. 21 on federal charges of illegal re-entry of a removed alien subsequent to an aggravated felony conviction."

KROE-TV Albuquerque, NM (8/19, 35K) reports that the Albuquerque Police Department "had received seven anonymous tips all identifying Luis Talamantes-Romero, a known gang member and thief, as the person responsible for Vigil's murder," by January 2020. However, he has not been charged at this time.

KOB-TV Albuquerque (NM) Albuquerque, NM (8/19, 51K) also reports.

Continuing Coverage: Mississippi Man Arrested On Charges Of Seeking Murder-For-Hire.

USA Today (8/19, Rowe, 10.31M) reports "Welcome to Sweetie Pie's" series star James Norman "was arrested by FBI agents Tuesday in Jackson on charges of conspiracy to use interstate commerce facilities in the commission of a murder-for-hire resulting in death." The affidavit "states Norman conspired with Terica Ellis, of Memphis, Tennessee, using prepaid cellphones to coordinate the murder of Norman's 21-year-old nephew, Andre Montgomery, on March 14, 2016, in St. Louis, Missouri."

The Hattiesburg (MS) American (8/19, 32K) reports Norman "is being held at the Madison County, Miss., Detention Center and is awaiting extradition to Missouri."

Continuing Coverage: Massachusetts Man Charged With Attempted Extortion.

The Worcester (MA) Telegram & Gazette (8/19, Petrishen, 124K) reports Keith Lessard "was indicted for allegedly trying to extort money from a West Virginia county judge who had prosecuted him in 2010." The court documents "show prosecutors allege Lessard, whose lawyer said he has mental health and substance abuse issues, repeatedly sent emails falsely accusing the judge, who was not named, of misconduct when she prosecuted him in a forgery case in Kanawha County, West Virginia." The FBI "said Lessard sent a letter to the judge's home through a delivery service, detailing his allegations and telling her that 'someone's wallet or purse is going to have to take a pretty nice sized hit.'"

WDTV-TV Bridgeport (WV) Bridgeport, WV (8/19) also reports.

FBI Investigating Disappearance Of Louisiana Man.

KJAS-FM Jasper, TX (8/19, Lout) reports that the FBI "has now joined the officers from both Texas and Louisiana as they try to piece together the alleged kidnapping and murder of Jimmie Box, Jr." Newton County Sheriff Billy Rowles "said Wednesday that and officers from the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Department in DeRidder along with representatives of the FBI are waiting on the results of an autopsy being performed at the Jefferson County Morgue in Beaumont on the body that was recovered on Monday near Bon Wier." KPLC-TV Lake Charles, LA (8/19, Manning, 5K) reports that five people "have been arrested" so far.

FBI Investigating Ohio Priest Over Sex Trafficking.

Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (8/19, 198K) reports Rev. Michael Zacharias "was arrested in Findlay on Tuesday and charged with sex trafficking minors" following an investigation by the FBI. The investigation began in July, when FBI agent Brian Russ arrested an unidentified man in possession of fentanyl. Three phones "were searched in relation to the drug arrest and agents discovered sexual conversations between the man and Zacharias," and the man "said Zacharias molested and raped him as a child and that the priest paid him for sex, even after he turned 18."

Maryland Woman Arrested For Bank Robbery.

The Cumberland (MD) Times-News (8/19, Times-News, 66K) reports Mary Ann Crossland "remained jailed without bond Tuesday, one day after she held five people hostage at the Chessie Federal Credit Union in Keyser."

Former California Police Officer Sentenced For Bribery.

The San Jose (CA) Mercury News (8/19, 456K) reports former Oakland police officer Harry Hu "was given 30 days in federal prison for accepting bribes and protecting" Wing Wo Ma, who was involved in a double-murder of a married couple in California. Hu "admitted to accepting tens of thousands in gifts" from the Ghee Kung Tong criminal organization.

West Virginia Couple Indicted For Obstruction Of Justice.

WVVA-TV Bluefield, WV (8/19) reports that a federal grand jury "has returned an indictment charging Julie Wheeler, 44, and her husband Rodney Wheeler, 48, both of Beaver, with conspiracy to obstruct justice." The indictment "alleges that while awaiting sentencing for a federal health care fraud conviction, Julie Wheeler conspired with her husband Rodney Wheeler and others known to the Grand Jury to obstruct justice by falsely reporting her fall from Grandview Park overlook, part of the New River Gorge National River" in May 2020.

More Than 1,100 Pounds Of Marijuana Found In Truck At US-Canada Border Crossing.

The AP (8/19) reports Customs and Border Protection officers found more than a "half-ton of marijuana...in a commercial truck" that was "attempting to cross into Michigan from Canada via the Blue Water Bridge." The officers "found more than 1,114 pounds (505 kilograms) of marijuana in vacuum-sealed packages concealed in cardboard boxes." The WWJ-AM Detroit (8/19) website and MLive (MI) (8/19, Acosta, 925K) also cover this story.

Investigation Leads To Record Drug Bust In California.

The Ventura County (CA) Star (8/19, Childs, 174K) reports the FBI was involved with an investigation that led to the "largest drug bust" in the history of Santa Barbara County, California. The investigation resulted in the seizure of 3,164 pounds of methamphetamine and 33 arrests, according to the Star article and similar stories published by the KEYT-TV Santa Barbara, CA (8/19, Hanamoto, 3K) website, the Santa Barbara (CA) Noozhawk (8/19, Scully) and the KSBY-TV San Luis Obispo, CA (8/20, 16K) website.

Meth Case Defendant Pleads Guilty.

The Cincinnati Enquirer (8/19, Mitchell, 223K) reports Jeffrey Pollard has "pleaded guilty in federal court to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and possession of a firearm in

furtherance of drug trafficking." The investigation of the Pollard case "was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Covington Police Department."

Drug Task Force Arrests Two Maryland Residents.

The Easton (MD) Star Democrat (8/19, Detmer, 48K) reports Maryland residents Tremaine Rondale Thomas and Taylor Whitley Turner "were arrested on Monday, Aug. 17, and face charges after a drug task force raid in June on their residence yielded narcotics, paraphernalia, a gun and bulletproof body armor, according to Dorchester County Sheriff's Office." Thomas and Turner "were located and arrested by the Capital Area Fugitive Task Force, which" is a "federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area initiative."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

US Charges Michigan Man With Coronavirus Fraud.

The Detroit News (8/19, Snell, 825K) reports, "A Southfield man splurged on a rare, \$44,500 Rolex watch during a pawn shop binge bankrolled with federal unemployment money that was supposed to help workers endure the COVID-19 pandemic, prosecutors said Wednesday." Samuel Baker, 37, "was involved in an unemployment insurance scheme that defrauded Michigan, Pennsylvania and the federal government out of approximately \$200,000, prosecutors said in unsealing a 16-page complaint. That number could increase due to ongoing investigation." Federal prosecutors said that in May, "Baker started filing fraudulent unemployment insurance claims that utilized phony Social Security numbers and fake driver's licenses. Some of the money was linked to the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, which provided unemployed workers an extra \$600 per week earlier this year."

Two Sentenced In North Carolina Corruption Probe.

The Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/19, Morrill, Alexander, 470K) reports, "Republican Robin Hayes, a former congressman and elder statesman of North Carolina's GOP, was sentenced to a year's probation and a \$9,500 fine Wednesday for his role in one of the state's largest public corruption scandals." Hayes, "a former N.C. Republican Party chairman, stood in a Charlotte courtroom as he was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Max Cogburn. He faced up to six months in prison, though prosecutors and defense lawyers recommended probation." Hayes, 75, "was one of four men indicted in 2019 on multiple charges in a sweeping federal bribery case. All were accused of bribing Republican state Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey with \$2 million in campaign contributions in an attempt to get him to remove the department official responsible for regulating one of Lindberg's companies."

The Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/19, Gordon, Alexander, 470K) reports, "Greg Lindberg, the billionaire businessman at the heart of one of North Carolina's worst government corruption scandals, will spend more than seven years in prison, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in Charlotte." US District Judge Max Cogburn "also ordered Lindberg to pay a \$35,000 fine and placed him on three years' probation for his scheme to bribe Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey with up to \$2 million in campaign contributions. Eventually, Lindberg, one of the state's largest political donors who wrote checks to both parties, funneled \$250,000 earmarked for Causey through the state Republican Party, an illicit transaction handled by the party's chairman, former Republican congressman Robin Hayes of Concord." Lindberg "received seven years and three months for each of two corruption counts of which he was convicted in March. The sentences will run concurrently. Lindberg will also serve three years of probation after his release."

The AP (8/19) reports, "Hayes and Lindberg were among four people indicted in early 2019, accused of trying to give over \$1.5 million to help state Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey's 2020 campaign, in exchange for Causey removing an official in his department. Causey, who wasn't accused of wrongdoing, alerted authorities and recorded conversations for them. Causey is running for reelection this fall."

Judge Sets New Trial Date For Los Angeles Councilman In Corruption Probe.

My News LA (CA) (8/19) reports, "A federal judge Wednesday set a June 22 trial date for suspended Los Angeles City Councilman Jose Huizar on corruption charges, and prosecutors indicated that additional defendants and charges are possible in the City Hall development scandal." According to My News LA, "Lawyers for both sides recommended the continuance from the tentative Sept. 29 trial date due to the voluminous amount of evidence and the fact that the government anticipates the grand jury will 'consider adding additional charges and additional defendants in a superseding indictment,' according to documents filed Wednesday in Los Angeles federal court. U.S. District Judge John Walter wrote in his order granting the new date that the Huizar case is 'so unusual and so complex, due to the nature of the prosecution' that additional preparation time was needed."

Attorneys For Chicago Alderman Challenge Evidence In Bribery Probe.

The Chicago Tribune (8/19, Meisner, 2.65M) reports, "After months on the back burner, the bribery case against Chicago Ald. Edward Burke is expected to heat up Thursday when his lawyers file long-awaited motions challenging the government's wiretaps and other evidence. How much of the material will be made public, however, remains to be seen." The Tribune adds, "In a filing Tuesday, Burke's attorneys asked U.S. District Judge Robert Dow for permission to redact key portions of their motions or file them as sealed exhibits. Among the protected material, according to Burke's attorneys, are some details of the government's 87-page Title III wiretap application that allowed the FBI to tap Burke's cellphone. The motions will also include discussions of witness statements and other sensitive evidence that should be kept from public view, according to Burke's attorneys, though the entirety of the motions are not expected to be kept from the public."

Florida Public Officials Charged With Theft Of Public Funds.

The AP (8/19) reports Lynn Haven Mayor Margo Anderson and City Attorney Adam Albritton "are the latest to be charged in the theft of \$5 million in Hurricane Michael debris removal funds." Prosecutors "said Albritton and Anderson indefinitely extended a debris removal contract with a private company for the city," and they "had work done by the company at their homes, as well as the homes of friends and relatives, and charged it to the city." The FBI Jacksonville Division investigated the case. WCTV-TV Tallahassee, FL (8/19, 111K) reports that the debris services "totaled \$48,000 but were claimed as services for public areas in Lynn Haven."

The Panama City (FL) News Herald (8/19, 120K) reports Anderson "faces 63 criminal counts," which "include a count of conspiring to defraud, numerous counts of wire fraud and a charge of embezzlement of federal funds." Albritton "faces charges identical to those for which Anderson was indicted except that rather than being charged with lying, he stands charged with scheming to defraud an insurance company by claiming he'd paid for work he'd done that was billed to the city of Lynn Haven."

Also reporting are Northwest Florida Daily News (8/19, 64K), WMBB-TV Panama City (FL) Panama City, FL (8/19), and WMBB-TV Panama City (FL) Panama City, FL (8/19).

Ex-Ohio House Speaker Needs More Time To Find Attorney.

The AP (8/19, Welsh-Huggins) reports from Columbus, Ohio, "The former speaker of the Ohio House still can't find a permanent lawyer to defend him against a charge related to an alleged \$60 million bribery scheme and needs more time to hire one, according to a Wednesday court filing." Rep. Larry Householder "and four others each face a racketeering charge for their roles in the alleged scheme to bail out two aging nuclear power plants. The five are accused of shepherding \$60 million in energy company money for personal and political use in exchange for passing a legislative bailout of the plants and then derailing an attempt to place a rejection of the bailout on the ballot." The AP adds, "Four defendants pleaded not guilty earlier this month to the charge that they conspired as part of what one defendant called an 'unholy alliance' aimed at saving the plants."

Former New Jersey Car Dealer Pleads Guilty To Wire Fraud.

The Bergen (NJ) Record (8/19, Zurita) reports, "A former luxury car dealer in Ramsey" pled "guilty to a wire fraud charge on Wednesday, authorities said." Afzal Khan, "who also goes by Bobby, was taken into custody by FBI agents in the United Arab Emirates and brought back to the country in February after being charged for the fraud which authorities said was committed from 2013-2014. Khan, 38, plead guilty by video conference to the indictment before U.S. District Judge William J. Martini, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito said in a statement. An arrest warrant was issued for Khan in October 2014 after he defrauded customers and financial institutions while he was the owner of Emporio Motor Group, a car dealership in Ramsey, the statement said."

New Jersey Man Indicted On Public Corruption Charges.

InsiderNJ (8/19) reports Jeanmarie Zahore "has been indicted on charges of making corrupt payments to a public official, wire fraud, and using a facility in interstate commerce to facilitate bribery." The indictment says that from August 2015 to November 2016, he "engaged in a scheme to offer and give corrupt cash payments to an unnamed Orange public official."

"Lottery Lawyer," Associates Allegedly Defrauded Lotto Winners Out Of \$107M.

CNN (8/19, Moghe, 83.16M) reports, "A New York man who calls himself the 'Lottery Lawyer' and three of his associates have been charged with defrauding lottery winners out of \$107 million, funds they believed were being invested on their behalf." Jason "Jay" Kurland, 46, "urged lottery winners on his now removed website to call him before even calling the Lottery Commission, saying, 'I can help secure your wealth for generations.' Prosecutors allege Kurland encouraged his clients to invest in entities controlled by his co-defendants, Christopher Chierchio, Francis Smookler and Francesco Russo. Prosecutors claim Kurland received kickbacks in return and that the four men then allegedly used the money from lottery winners' investments to keep their scheme going and 'enrich themselves,' according to the indictment."

Newsday (NY) (8/19, Kessler, 932K) reports, "A federal judge Wednesday ordered one of the defendants arrested in an alleged \$107 million lottery scam permanently detained as a danger to the community because of threats he made to one of the victims in the case." US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in Brooklyn "said he made his decision to jail Francesco Russo, 38, of Roslyn, pending trial based on the alleged threats Russo made to the victim that he, his wife and children would be brutally harmed if the victim did not immediately repay a \$250,000 extortionate loan. In doing so, Garaufis agreed with federal prosecutors who appealed a decision by a magistrate who had ordered Russo released on \$2 million bond on Tuesday." Newsday adds, "The extortionate

loan charges were a separate set of accusations involving two of the defendants in the main lottery scam in which the winners of three jackpots were allegedly cheated out of a part of their winnings."

The New York Daily News (8/19, Rayman, 2.52M) reports, "A man whose mob family roots run deep will have to stay in jail as he awaits trial in on charges he was part of a conspiracy to defraud lottery jackpot winners of more than \$80 million, a federal judge said Wednesday." The Daily News adds, "It wasn't the ruling Francesco 'Frankie' Russo, 38, wanted. Before the video hearing before" Judge Garaufis, "he blurted out to his lawyer Joseph Conway how frightened he was to be in the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. 'This is the scariest place I've ever been. Joe, get me out of here!' Russo said. Russo – a Roslyn, L.I. resident – on Tuesday was granted \$2 million bail in the lottery case, which led to charges against Long Island 'Lottery Lawyer' Jason Kurland."

FBI Probing Fundraising At Firm Linked To Bannon, Wengui.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Spegele, Hua, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that federal and New York authorities are investigating a media firm linked to former Trump adviser Steve Bannon and exiled Chinese businessman Guo Wengui after it raised more than \$300 million in a private offering this spring. The FBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating whether GTV Media or associates of Guo violated securities laws, while the New York state attorney general's office is also examining the firm.

Catholic Charities Of Southern Nevada Pays \$206K To Settle Fraud Probe.

The AP (8/19, Ritter) reports from Las Vegas, "Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has agreed to pay more than \$206,000 to settle a federal fraud investigation that focused on community service grants for Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs in 2014 and 2015, authorities said Wednesday." According to the AP, "Administrators of the charity voluntarily reported that Corporation for National and Community Service grants had been improperly used to pay stipends for hours never worked, violated program requirements or were inflated, U.S. attorneys Nicholas Trutanich in Nevada and William McSwain in Pennsylvania said. The settlement was reached before criminal charges were filed. The organization did not admit wrongdoing and there was no determination of liability, the prosecutors said in a statement."

US Charges Florida City Officials In \$5M Hurricane Debris Removal Scheme.

The AP (8/15) reports from Panama City, Florida, "The mayor and city attorney of a Florida Panhandle city are the latest to be charged in the theft of \$5 million in Hurricane Michael debris removal funds, prosecutors announced Wednesday." According to the AP, "Lynn Haven Mayor Margo Anderson and City Attorney Adam Albritton are the subjects of a 64-count indictment returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Panama City, according to court records. They were both arrested Wednesday morning. 'This case is an example of what happens when public servants becomes complicit in corrupt behavior rather than standing up to it,' Rachel L. Rojas, the special agent in charge of the FBI Jacksonville Division, said in a news release."

Attorneys Agree On Sentencing Date In Hawaii Corruption Case.

The AP (8/19, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu, "Sentencing in Hawaii's biggest corruption investigation could now happen in November after it was postponed by the coronavirus pandemic." The AP adds, "A letter from U.S. prosecutors to a judge was filed in court Wednesday, saying the sides have agreed on a sentencing date of Nov. 3 for former Honolulu Police Chief Louis

Kealoha and his now-estranged wife, Katherine Kealoha, who was a former high-ranking city prosecutor. A jury convicted them last year of conspiracy in a plot to frame a relative to keep him from revealing fraud that financed their lavish lifestyle." According to the AP, "Sentencing hearings for the couple had been originally scheduled for March. The judge postponed because of concerns over the spread of the coronavirus. Lawyers have agreed on Nov. 4 for sentencing of two former officers convicted with the Kealohas."

US Charges New Jersey Man With Bribery.

The AP (8/19) reports from Newark, New Jersey, "Federal authorities say a computer consultant has been indicted on charges of having bribed a public official to get a \$350,000 emergency contract in New Jersey almost five years ago." Jeanmarie Zahore, 56, "of Rahway is accused of having engaged in a scheme to offer an unnamed official payments to have the IZ Nettech business he operated out of his home awarded the September 2015 emergency contract from the Orange Township City Council, the U.S. attorney's office said Wednesday. Officials allege that in November 2015, Zahore gave the official checks totaling about \$20,000 and characterized them as gifts on an expense spreadsheet related to the municipal project."

NJ News (8/19, Atmonavage, 1.72M) reports that Zahore "was indicted on charges of making corrupt payments to an agent of a local government receiving federal funds, two counts of wire fraud and violating the Travel Act to carry on bribery. According to authorities, Zahore allegedly 'engaged in a scheme' starting in August 2015 to offer and give 'corrupt cash payments' to an unnamed Orange public official in exchange for the city employee using their influence to reward Zahore's computer consulting business, JZ Nettech, with a lucrative city contract to install a computer networking system at the municipal complex that houses the Orange Municipal Court and the Orange Police Department."

Businessman In St Louis Bribery Probe Gets Coronavirus In Prison.

The AP (8/19) reports from St. Louis, "A businessman who went to prison in June after pleading guilty in a pay-to-play scandal that brought down a top St. Louis County elected official has asked to be released because he has the coronavirus." John Rallo, 55, "asked a federal judge to allow him to serve some of his 17-month prison sentence under home confinement with family in Salt Lake City because of health concerns." Rallo "pleaded guilty last summer to three bribery counts as part of a scheme involving former Democratic St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger, who pleaded guilty in May 2019 to corruption charges for providing political favors in exchange for campaign donations. Stenger is serving a sentence of nearly four years in prison."

CYBER DIVISION

Trump Offers Support For Oracle's TikTok Bid.

The New York Times (8/19, McCabe, 18.61M) reports that "late on Tuesday," while in Arizona, President Trump "said...that he would support Oracle buying TikTok, the Chinese-owned viral video app that his administration says must to be sold in the next few weeks," and "called Oracle a 'great company.' ... 'I think that Oracle would be certainly somebody that could handle it,' he said." However, according to the Times, Trump "declined to say whether he believed Oracle was a better option to take over the app than Microsoft," which "has also talked with ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese owner, about buying the app." The Times goes on to report that "unlike many of their Silicon Valley peers, Oracle's executives are political allies of the president." The Times says CEO Safra Catz "was a member of Mr. Trump's transition team," and Oracle's founder and

chairman Larry Ellison "hosted a fund-raiser for the president earlier this year." Reuters (8/19) also draws attention to Trump's comments on TikTok and Oracle.

FBI Launches Election Messaging Campaign In California.

My News LA (CA) (8/19) reports, "With fewer than 80 days to go until Election Day on Nov. 3, the FBI in Los Angeles has launched a public awareness campaign about election security at [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov) and across the agency's social media platforms. The goal is to increase public awareness about threats to the upcoming election and to inform Americans how they can help the FBI ensure security. The threats include crimes the FBI has been investigating for decades, including campaign finance crimes, voter/ballot fraud, civil rights violations, and unique cyber threats targeting the election process. 'In these uncertain times, the FBI remains steadfast in its efforts to protect and defend the United States and its people from election interference by criminals operating from near or far, at the ballot box or via cyber space,' said John F. Bennett, the acting assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office."

Chinese Telecom Ban Has "Unclear Requirements" For Industry.

Law360 (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8K) reports on August 13, "Part B of Section 889(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019, took effect." It is anticipated that "complying with the new rules will cost government contractors billions of dollars in the first year alone – with limited guidance available and the rule still in interim form." While Part B does "not directly bar companies from using certain Chinese telecommunications equipment or services, it accomplishes that goal by prohibiting federal prime contractors from continuing to do so while bidding on or entering into government contracts, or extending current contracts or accepting new orders" under certain instances.

Trump Set To Ban WeChat Despite Lobbying By American Companies.

The Washington Times (8/19, Gertz, 492K) reports President Trump's ban on WeChat will "take effect Sept. 20 and gives Commerce Secretary Wilbur L. Ross Jr. wide authority to block anyone under U.S. jurisdiction from doing business with Tencent Holdings Ltd., WeChat's parent company." Despite "intense lobbying campaign by major companies that still hope to continue doing business in China," the Times says that the White House National Security Council and State Department are both "adamant that the ban will go into effect next month." The restriction is "part of the overall Trump administration approach of seeking fair and reciprocal trade and other relations with China."

Taiwan Announces China Hacked At Least Ten Government Agencies.

Reuters (8/19, Lee) reports Taiwan said on Wednesday that "hacking groups linked to the Chinese government had attacked at least 10 government agencies and some 6,000 email accounts of government officials in an 'infiltration' to steal important data." Democratic Taiwan has been "urging its people to be alert for what officials call 'omnipresent infiltration' from China, involving from Beijing-backed media campaigns to cyberattacks, against the island that China considers its territory." Taiwan Investigation Bureau Cyber Security Investigation Office Deputy Director Liu Chia-zung said, "Chinese hacking groups have been infiltrating government agencies and their information service providers for a long time." Liu told reporters the hackers "were aiming to acquire important government documents and data," admitting, "Some government data might have been leaked. This has posed a great threat." Among those who were "attacked and infiltrated

by two Chinese hacking groups were at least four Taiwan tech companies that had been providing information services to the government, the office said."

Michael Morell Interviews NSA's Neuberger On Election Security.

CBS News (8/19, 3.68M) reports that in the latest episode of the "Intelligence Matters" podcast, host and former CIA acting director Michael Morell interviews NSA Cybersecurity Directorate head Anne Neuberger in a wide-ranging conversation on "what lessons were learned about deterring Russia during the 2018 midterm elections and how the Cybersecurity Directorate seeks to help the public and private sectors defend themselves against foreign cyber threats." Neuberger said the NSA looks at "two key poles of election integrity." She cites "attempts to malignly influence the population" coupled with "potentially interfering, hacking into elections infrastructure as part of efforts to change the vote." Neuberger warns "the first piece is the value of resiliency: the sense that, once trust is lost, it's very hard to regain," but adds, "the biggest resilience is each of us as Americans."

TikTok Signals Intentions To Remain In US "For The Long Run."

NBC News (8/19, Byers, Kent, 6.14M) reports TikTok has "no plans to pull out of the United States even if it is not sold to a U.S. company, a top executive said Tuesday." Vanessa Pappas, the general manager "for TikTok's operations in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, also pushed back on claims that the app is a security threat." Pappas told the "TODAY" show that "TikTok is here for the long run" and "more than confident in our future." She added, "We're not a national security threat." Pappas said, "We have very strict data controls in place. We have an amazing team building a world-class infrastructure, and that's something that we put front and center in terms of protecting our users." She also "cited a recent CIA report that found no evidence that Chinese intelligence had accessed TikTok users' data."

FBI, CISA Officials Take Part In "Election Security Simulation."

MeriTalk (8/19, Weingarten) reports Boston-based cybersecurity firm Cybereason has held a "series of election security events over the past couple of years in order to provide law enforcement with opportunities to think proactively about ways to ensure that elections are safe and secure." Cybereason co-founder and CTO Yonatan Striem-Amit, "led the red team of hackers during the August 19 simulation conducted online" Striem-Amit said, "There are multiple infrastructures involved in mail-in voting that don't have a clear coverage from law enforcement." While Striem-Amit schemed "with his red team to devise ways to interfere with the election, officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) met in a separate breakout room to anticipate and provide structures for the election's security." Adding more security staff "for mail sorting facilities, defending high-traffic transportation routes, and advanced messaging about the correct ways to cast mail-in ballots were a few of the 'moves' that the blue team of law enforcement deployed during one of the simulation's early stages."

Marriott Sued Over Data Breach.

The Guardian (UK) (8/19, Partridge, 4.19M) reports Marriott International is facing a "class action lawsuit in London's high court from millions of customers, who are seeking compensation after their personal details were stolen in one of the world's largest data breaches." Technology consultant Martin Bryant is leading the "legal action on behalf of people living in England or Wales who made a reservation to stay at one of Marriott International's Starwood properties before 10

September 2018." Those who reserved rooms "in any of the affected hotels around the world, including Marriott's W Hotels, Sheraton Hotels & Resorts, Westin Hotels & Resorts and Le Méridien Hotel & Resorts, will be automatically included in the lawsuit unless they decide to opt out." The suit filed against Marriott "would serve as a wake-up call to companies about the penalties they may face for not prioritising cybersecurity, said Stuart Reed, UK director at information technology services provider Orange Cyberdefense."

CRA Says It Notified Victims Of Data Hack "Long Before Breaches Confirmed."

CTV News (CAN) (8/19, 240K) reports following the Canada Revenue Agency's "admission over the weekend that thousands of Canadians' accounts had been compromised in a series of recent cyberattacks, several victims say they notified the CRA about the hacks weeks – and even months – earlier." According to the "CRA, hackers accessed the accounts of 5,500 Canadians using stolen usernames and passwords in three separate cyber security incidents." Government officials said "they first learned of the security issues on Aug. 7 and contacted the RCMP to investigate on Aug. 11."

Huawei "Suffers" Under US Pressure.

The AP (8/19, McDonald) reports for almost a decade, Huawei "kept worldwide sales growing as Washington told U.S. phone companies not to buy its network equipment and lobbied allies to reject China's first global tech brand as a security threat." Huawei is now "suffering in earnest as Washington intensifies a campaign to slam the door on access to foreign markets and components in its escalating feud with Beijing over technology and security." The Trump Administration is "ramping up pressure on European and other allies, including by threatening to withhold intelligence sharing if they allow Huawei into next-generation, or 5G, networks."

LABORATORY

FBI Lab Processed Electronic Evidence In Daybell Criminal Probe.

East Idaho News (8/19, Eaton) reports from Salt Lake City, "It's no secret FBI agents have been actively assisting local law enforcement in the Chad and Lori Daybell criminal investigations. Agents in Idaho and from the Salt Lake City division are involved and a large part of the case is being worked on from the Intermountain West Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (RCFL)." EIN adds, "When investigators seized 43 items from Chad Daybell's Fremont County home in January, computers, cell phones and other devices were sent to the RCFL where Cheney Eng-Tow is the lab director and a supervisory special agent for the FBI. 'We're essentially a digital forensic task force,' Eng-Tow tells EastIdahoNews.com. 'We're made up of FBI and state and local officers who are assigned here by their agencies. Our role is to provide digital forensic services to all law enforcement agencies in Utah, Montana and Idaho.'"

DNA Technology Leads To Charges Against Suspected Serial Rapist.

The Dallas Morning News (8/19, 946K) reports, "Authorities have arrested a 74-year-old man they suspect is a serial rapist in connection with a 1985 sexual assault case in Dallas." David Thomas Hawkins "was booked into the Dallas County jail Wednesday afternoon. The Dallas County district attorney's office, which announced the arrest, said the office's cold-case team, Dallas police and the FBI collaborated on the case, using advanced DNA testing techniques like those that identified California's notorious Golden State Killer. 'This case was solved through the use of forensic genetic genealogy analysis and is the first of its kind to be solved in this manner in Dallas County,' District

Attorney John Creuzot said in a written statement. In addition to the 1985 Dallas case, the DA's office said authorities believe DNA evidence connects Hawkins to three more sexual assaults in Dallas and two in Shreveport, La., from 1980 to 1985."

WFAA-TV Dallas (8/19, de Bruijn, 307K) reports "Hawkins was linked through DNA testing to the aggravated sexual assault of a Dallas woman in 1985, according to the DA's office. He was arrested Wednesday morning at his home in Keene, Dallas police said in a statement. Investigators reviewed the 1985 case with the help of experts in forensic genetic genealogy. Investigators did extensive DNA testing, genealogy research and surveillance, the office said."

1 AWFL ACCESS

Researchers Devise Attacks Targeting Email End-To-End Encryption.

Security Week (8/19, Arghire) reports, "A group of academic researchers has devised practical attacks against major standards in email end-to-end encryption, which could lead to the exfiltration of sensitive information. The proposed attacks target the OpenPGP and S/MIME encryption schemes, and can be used to leak private keys and other data, researchers with the Ruhr University Bochum and Münster University of Applied Sciences explain in a newly published paper." Security Week adds, "One of the proposed attack models considers the adversary as being located between the communication partners and able to conduct a man-in-the-middle (MitM) attack (such as an Internet or email provider, or a compromised SMTP or IMAP server). The second model abuses the mailto URI scheme, which allows third-party apps to invoke an email client to facilitate the composition of a message to a given email address. The various parameters that the mailto URIs pass to the email client, including the header, can be abused as attack vectors."

OTHER FBI NEWS

FBI Twitter Account Linked To Files On "Protocols Of Elders Of Zion."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency (8/19, Burack, 9K) reports, "An official FBI Twitter account drew criticism for tweeting a link to a 139-page selection of the bureau's files on 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,' the infamously anti-Semitic early 20th century text that accuses Jews of world domination." The JTA adds, "The FBI Records Vault sent the tweet on Wednesday afternoon without context, and some Twitter users took it as a promotion of the message in the 'Protocols.' However, the Twitter account regularly tweets declassified archival FBI documents." According to the JTA, "The files in the link include different copies of the 'Protocols' text, which claims it is 'Proof that Communism is a Jewish world plot to enslave the gentiles and to seize power during the resulting chaos,' as well as letters to former FBI head J. Edgar Hoover about it."

FBI Houston Explains How Bank Robbers Are Nicknamed.

The Houston Chronicle (8/19, Gowdy, 730K) reports, "When the Chron team received an email about the 'baby bib bandit' who robbed an armored car in Houston, we had a very important question: Who comes up with these names? We were so curious to know, we reached out to the Federal Bureau of Investigation directly to find out. 'The nicknaming is a process that's a team effort,' an FBI spokesperson said. 'We take a look at the picture of the subject and the details of the robbery, and we just try to come up with something catchy that we think the public will remember.'" The Chronicle adds, "The names – which can take anywhere from five minutes to an

hour to come up with – are uniquely selected based on the characteristics such as physical features, clothing and disguises, and modus operandi.”

U.S. WASHINGTON NEWS

Trump Urges Boycott Of Goodyear Over Ban On MAGA Garb, “Blue Lives Matter.”

President Trump took to Twitter Wednesday to write, “Don’t buy GOODYEAR TIRES – They announced a BAN ON MAGA HATS. Get better tires for far less! (This is what the Radical Left Democrats do. Two can play the same game, and we have to start playing it now!).” USA Today (8/19, Tyko, 10.31M) recounts that ahead of Trump’s tweet, there had been “calls on social media for a boycott” after a Topeka, KS, TV station “on Tuesday showed a slide” from a diversity training program that was presented at a Goodyear Topeka plant.” Fox News (8/19, Singman, 27.59M) indicates “the slide...showed two categories: Acceptable and Unacceptable.” Under “Acceptable” were “Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride (LGBT),” and “under ‘Unacceptable’ were Blue Lives Matter, All Lives Matter, MAGA and politically affiliated slogans or material.”

The AP (8/19, Shalal) reports that later Wednesday, “Trump...accused Goodyear...of ‘playing politics’ by forbidding workers from wearing hats supporting him, and said he would swap out the Goodyear tires on his limousine if there were an alternative.” Trump “told reporters he thought it was ‘disgraceful’ that the company would prevent employees from wearing attire supporting the ‘Blue Lives Matter’ movement that supports law enforcement, while allowing support for other organizations.” The Daily Caller (8/19, Nieto, 716K), among other news outlets, also covers Trump’s announcement about the presidential limousine.

Both local and national media coverage of the boycott are largely unfavorable, casting the President as acting against the interests of both American workers and an iconic US company. Reports also see the move against Goodyear, which is headquartered in Akron, OH, as politically counterproductive in an election year. For example the CBS Evening News (8/19, story 5, 0:45, Ben Tracy, 4.29M), which was the only major network newscast to cover the story, said it was “a risky move,” and that Trump “attacked Goodyear tires, an American icon, for announcing a ban on MAGA hats.” Trump was shown saying, “I’m not happy with Goodyear, because what they’re doing is playing politics.” Along similar lines, Newsweek (8/19, Crisp, 1.53M) reports “Trump has waded into a fight with a major employer in Midwestern states crucial to his reelection bid,”

WOIO-TV (8/19, 19K) reported that a boycott “could end up costing local workers a lot of jobs and the local economy a lot of money,” and added that Trump’s tweet “hit Akron and Goodyear like a lightning bolt,” with “even some of his supporters in the area...having misgivings.” WSYX-TV (8/19, 62K) said “the city of Akron jumped in on social media and slammed the President,” WJW-TV (8/19, 70K) that “there is a lot of support for Goodyear here in Akron,” as “many generations of families here have worked for the company and some believe the President is off base.” However, “some Akron area residents who have supported Goodyear over the years say they believe...Trump is standing up for the right to free speech.” Along those lines, The Federalist (8/19, Justice, 126K) indicates that “the photo from Goodyear’s sensitivity training sparked immediate scrutiny on Twitter from users calling out the company’s discrimination.”

Bloomberg (8/19, Wingrove, 4.73M) reports that Goodyear later “said in a statement that the ‘visual in question was not created or distributed by Goodyear corporate’” but “didn’t explain the origin of the image.” The Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (8/19, Mackinnon, 198K) points out the company wrote, “We do allow our associates to express their support on racial injustice and other

equity issues but ask that they refrain from workplace expressions, verbal or otherwise, in support of political campaigning for any candidate or political party as well as other similar forms of advocacy that fall outside the scope of equity issues."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (8/19, Goist, 895K) indicates the statement also said "the visual in question was not...part of a diversity training class," and Politico (8/19, Cohen, 4.29M) that "the company did not indicate the image was doctored and stood by the ban on political messaging articulated in the slide." The Washington Post (8/19, Wagner, 14.2M) notes "the statement did not mention Trump."

The Hill (8/19, Bowden, 2.98M) reports that at a briefing, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said, "What was not allowed was Blue Lives Matter. What was not allowed was MAGA hats. What was clearly targeted was a certain ideology." Reuters (8/19) reports that McEnany also said, "Goodyear needs to come out to clarify their policy." CNN (8/19, Klein, 83.16M) says Trump is calling for a boycott "despite previously railing against 'cancel culture,'" and that McEnany "claimed that Blue Lives Matter is as much of an equity issue as Black Lives Matter." The Washington Examiner (8/19, Mastrangelo, 448K) points out McEnany was responding to CBS' Paula Reid, who asked, "Why is the President retaliating against a private company for their dress code and potentially jeopardizing American jobs?"

The Daily Beast (8/19, Woodall, Brodey, 1.39M) reports "Rep. Tim Ryan, the Democratic congressman who represents the Akron area, said the tweet was a 'holy s---' moment in a presidency that's already been full of them." Ryan "told The Daily Beast his immediate reaction was 'a little bit shocked at the level of stupidity' on the part of the president," adding "This is an iconic American company in a swing state. ... It's really, really dumb politically."

Reuters (8/19, Shepardson, Wolfe) reports that Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), "who represents Goodyear's home state of Ohio, criticized Trump's comment. 'It's absolutely despicable that the President would call for a boycott of an American company, based in Akron, that employs thousands of US workers,' he wrote in a tweet." Reuters adds that White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway "told reporters at the White House on Wednesday that she had not seen the tweet, but did not think it would harm the president's prospects in Ohio." Conway is quoted as saying, "I think he's done plenty for companies in Ohio and elsewhere, far more than Joe Biden ever did."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (8/19, Goist, 895K) reports "a spokeswoman for Republican US Rep. Dave Joyce, who represents northeastern Summit County, said: 'Congressman Joyce has always been and will continue to be a proud supporter of Ohio's manufacturers. Fighting for these manufacturers and the jobs they provide has consistently been one of his top priorities, as is the preservation of his constituents' First Amendment rights which he believes all employers should be protecting.'" Meanwhile, "Democratic Ohio House Rep. Emilia Sykes of Akron responded to the president's tweet, calling on him to stand down."

To Yahoo! Finance (8/19, David), "With his poll numbers lagging," Trump has "made explicit appeals to his political base in hopes of bolstering his support – which usually involves the use of highly-charged cultural issues." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (8/19, Darnell, 895K), The Hill (8/19, Chalfant, 2.98M), the New York Post (8/19, Manskar, 4.57M), The Federalist (8/19, Davidson, 126K) and the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Foldy, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), among other news outlets, also cover the story.

Trump Tweet Sends Goodyear Stock Tumbling. WEWS-TV : Cleveland (8/19, 41K) reported that "after the President's tweet, Goodyear stock immediately took a hit," the AP (8/19, Freking) that Trump's tweet "immediately sent the company's stock downward," and Tire Business (8/19, Johnson) that "shares of Goodyear stock were trading at \$9.58 at 10:30 a.m. and fell to

\$9.36 by 10.35 a.m., two minutes after Trump's tweet." By closing, Business Insider (8/19, Fox, 3.67M) reports, it had "dropped as much as 6%."

Adams: Public-Private Partnerships Driving Development Of Vaccine.

Surgeon General Adams said on WIND-AM Chicago (8/19, 8K) that "one of the things that has come out of this that's been incredibly positive has been the public-private partnerships towards therapeutic and vaccine developments...and it really is going to change the way we develop these types of products moving forward." Adams said NIAID Director Fauci "still expects a vaccine by the end of this year, beginning of next year, and that's important for people to understand, because when people say 'how long do we have to follow these basic public health measures, is it going to be forever?' No, it's literally going to be through the end of this year, beginning of next year" thanks to Operation Warp Speed.

Hahn: Safety Standards Not Being Sacrificed In Race For Vaccine. FDA Commissioner Steven Hahn said on Hawaii Public Radio (USA) ²² (8/19) that, "There is a race, and this race is against COVID-19. It isn't a race of one country versus the other, and at FDA, what we do is we look at data from any vaccine manufacturer or developer and then we look at those data and determine whether it's safe and effective." He said, "We want to make sure that those volunteers in the vaccine trials are representative of all America," including "all ethnic groups," and "we've spent a lot of time talking to the vaccine developers to make sure that's happening in these clinical trials." Hahn added, "Our standards are the same regardless of whether a vaccine is developed in the United States or Europe or any other country in the world."

Fauci And NIH's Collins Blocked Authorization Of Plasma To Treat Covid-19.

The New York Times (8/19, Weiland, Lafraniere, Fink, 18.61M) reports that "last week, just as the Food and Drug Administration was preparing to issue an emergency authorization for blood plasma as a Covid-19 treatment, a group of top federal health officials including" NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins and NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci "intervened, arguing that emerging data on the treatment was too weak." As a result, "The authorization is on hold for now as more data is reviewed." According to the Times, "Donated by people who have survived the disease, antibody-rich plasma is considered safe," and President Trump "has hailed it as a 'beautiful ingredient' in the veins of people who have survived Covid-19." However, the Post says "clinical trials have not proved whether plasma can help people fighting the coronavirus."

Birx Discusses Coronavirus Response With West Virginia Officials.

WCHS-TV ²³ Charleston, WV (8/19, 26K) reported Coronavirus Response Coordinator Dr. Birx "spent Wednesday in West Virginia meeting with Governor Jim Justice, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, and Congressman Alex Mooney" to see "how state leaders are combating COVID-19." Dr. Birx said, "I think you can put out" a mask mandate "and then you can put out a mandate that really appeals to the people, and I think listening to the governor talk about West Virginia's respect for one another and the neighborhood and neighborly reactivity of every single person in West Virginia was really heartening to hear." She added that the state's back-to-school plan would be "put in our governors' report next week." WVAH-TV ²⁴ Charleston, WV (8/19, 4K), WOWK-TV ²⁵ Charleston, WV (8/19, 5K), WSAZ-TV Huntington, WV (8/19, 40K), and WVVA-TV Bluefield, WV (8/19, 16K) also reported on Dr. Birx's comments.

Wilkie Touts VA's Handling Of Virus.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Wilkie was asked on [WTAM-AM](#) ¹ Cleveland (8/19, 12K) about the impact of coronavirus on veterans. Wilkie said, "What happened is almost counterintuitive...we have nine and a half million veterans in our system. We've had 40,000 infections as of this morning" with only two infected in VA nursing homes and 35,000 recovered. He said, "You're dealing with people who are used to the most extreme situations on the planet and, early on, we got information to them, we told them what to look for, how to act, and they responded. They responded in a magnificent way." Wilkie added, "The biggest challenge for us is what happens in the next few months."

Adams Decries Politicization Of Coronavirus.

Surgeon General Adams was asked on [WIND-AM](#) ² Chicago (8/19, 8K) about politicization of the coronavirus. Adams said, "There's no chapter in the pandemic playbook on an impeachment trial, or a presidential election, or a social justice movement the likes of which we haven't seen since the '60s." He said, "Unfortunately, there are people who hate the other party, on both sides, more than they hate the virus, and I'm here just trying to defeat the virus." Pointing to red states like California and New York, Adams added, "There's no one who's come out of this unscathed. We've all been humbled, but we all will get through this together and by trying to take the politics out of it."

Adams Urges Illinois To Take Steps To Lower Test Positivity Rate.

Surgeon General Adams said on [WLS-TV](#) ³ Chicago (8/19, 133K) that "as a nation, we are at the low end of yellow and approaching green" for coronavirus infections, "but that doesn't mean that we don't have problems. We've got hot spots, and Illinois is actually one of those areas where they're in the yellow, solidly in the yellow, and so I want the people of Illinois to understand there are measures we can take to continue to drive down the spread and positivity rates."

Adams: Georgia's Coronavirus Test Positivity Is Trending Down.

Surgeon General Adams addressed Georgia's high rate of coronavirus infections on [WTOG-TV](#) ⁴ Savannah, GA (8/19, 8K), saying, "Georgia right now is in the red, cases are leveling off and test positivity is starting to trend down, and that's thanks to the people of Georgia doing the right thing, but we need you to be aware that you're in the danger zone and we need people to continue to do the right things," including hand washing, social distancing, and wearing masks.

New York Governor Regrets Not Mandating Masks Sooner.

The [New York Post](#) (8/19, Hogan, Musumeci, 4.57M) reports New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) reiterated his justification for the "decision to stop counting as nursing home deaths the COVID-19 fatalities of residents who succumbed after being transferred to hospitals, but finally admitted at least one mistake he made during the coronavirus crisis." Cuomo said, "I was the first state in the nation to do masks, I should've done it earlier. I should've done masks earlier. That would've made a dramatic difference." He "also admitted 'we were wrong' to say that asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19 can't spread the killer bug."

Campaign Declines To Say Whether Or Not Biden Has Been Tested.

Bloomberg (8/19, Beckwith, 4.73M) reports that the Biden campaign, "which has embraced public health guidelines during the pandemic, won't say whether the 77-year-old candidate has been tested for coronavirus." On Wednesday, spokeswoman Kate Bedingfield "declined to say whether Biden or...Senator Kamala Harris had been screened for the virus. 'I'm not going to get into

specifics on whether the vice president or Senator Harris have been tested,' she said in a briefing for reporters." According to Bloomberg, Biden "has said he hasn't been checked for the virus, most recently at an in-person campaign stop in Wilmington on July 28."

Roche To Partner With Regeneron To Create An Antibody Cocktail For COVID-19.

Reuters (8/19, Miller) reports, "Roche is adding its manufacturing muscle and global development expertise to Regeneron's bid to create an antibody cocktail for COVID-19 that the Swiss and U.S. companies hope can be used to slow the pandemic." Reuters adds, "Roche has one of the world's largest antibody production operations, including U.S. facilities in San Francisco, and will boost overall capacity for REGN-COV2 by at least three and a half times, a feat Regeneron would have been hard pressed to accomplish going it alone."

Daily Average Caseload Across DC Region Falls To Lowest Level In A Month.

The Washington Post (8/19, Hedgpeth, Wiggins, Tan, 14.2M) reports, "The average number of new coronavirus cases across the greater Washington region dropped to its lowest level in a month Wednesday, a sign of progress after recent actions by local leaders to keep a lid on infection spikes." The seven-day average of new cases "dropped to 1,594 on Wednesday, down from more than 2,000 earlier in August." The daily average is the area's "lowest since July 17, as regional increases were prompting officials to look at new restrictions to stop the virus's spread."

Data Suggests Child Abuse Is Being Underreported During Pandemic.

The Washington Post (8/19, Schmidt, 14.2M) reports that "a new survey of children's advocacy centers across the country offers some of the clearest data yet" on the gap in child abuse reporting during the pandemic. The centers "reported serving 40,000 fewer children nationwide between January and June of this year than the same period last year, from 192,367 children in 2019 down to 152,016 this year, a 21 percent drop, according to the National Children's Alliance, an accrediting body for a network of 900 children's advocacy centers." Teresa Huizar, executive director of the National Children's Alliance, said, "We have absolutely no reason to believe the actual incidence rate has declined. What we really believe is that there are 40,000 fewer kids that haven't been saved from abuse."

Administration Willing To Consider \$25B For USPS.

Bloomberg (8/19, Mohsin, 4.73M) reports that the Administration "is willing to consider the Democrats' plan to spend \$25 billion on the U.S. Postal Service – as long as lawmakers also provide other coronavirus relief sought by the White House, said spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany." McEnany told reporters Wednesday, "We're certainly open to looking at the \$25 billion, but we want included in there relief for the American people." Reuters (8/19, Shalal) says the White House "wants the bill to also provide aid for Americans unemployed because of the coronavirus pandemic." The Washington Times (8/19, Swayer, 492K) quotes McEnany as saying, "We are waiting on reckless [House Speaker Nancy] Pelosi to get back and do her job." McEnany "noted the postal service has \$25 billion on hand and is funded through 2021, calling Ms. Pelosi's suggestion that it can't handle mail-in ballots for the November election a 'farce.'"

The Washington Examiner (8/19, Brest, 448K) says McEnany's comments "come shortly after President Trump's chief of staff Mark Meadows said there was a chance that the two sides could agree to a narrow deal on a coronavirus aid package," but the Washington Post (8/19, Sonmez, Bogage, 14.2M) calls McEnany's comments "a departure from President Trump's

statement earlier this month that he would not approve that amount of funding for the cash-strapped agency, citing prohibitively high costs."

Trump Hits McConnell, Republicans For Holding USPS Hearing During GOP Convention. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (8/19, Tobin, 10.31M) reports that in a tweet Wednesday, President Trump "express[ed] frustration with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell over the timing of hearings on the United States Postal Service." A "highly anticipated Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee hearing, which will feature the testimony of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, is set to take place Friday." Trump wrote, "Why are Republicans allowing the Democrats to have ridiculous Post Office hearings on Saturday & Monday, just before and during our Convention. Let them hold them NOW (during their Convention) or after our Convention is over. Always playing right into their hands! @senatemajldr" The Courier-Journal points out that Trump "incorrectly identif[ied] the date of the Senate hearing."

Meadows: DeJoy Did Not Consult With Trump Before Pausing Changes To USPS Operations. The Hill (8/19, Samuels, 2.98M) reports that Meadows told reporters Wednesday that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy did not consult with the President before putting changes to US Postal Service operations on hold. Meadows said, "The Postmaster General did that on his own. ... That was an independent decision that was made by the postmaster general and the Board of Governors... And really it's more from an appearance standpoint more than anything else." Appearing on Fox News' Fox & Friends (8/19, 831K) Wednesday, Meadows said DeJoy "did the right thing. Said we're going to put these operational decisions on hold. But they are not President Trump's operational decisions. They came from 2011 under the Obama Administration. And now all of a sudden, there is outrage. ... The President wants to make the post office great again."

Bloomberg (8/19, Shields, House, 4.73M) says DeJoy has "tried to neutralize complaints by suspending his operational changes, but he failed to silence accusations that he is hampering the agency's ability to handle voting by mail." The Washington Post (8/19, Frankel, 14.2M) says it is unclear "how much of a difference [DeJoy's] moves will make,"

Pelosi Says DeJoy Told Her He Does Not Intend To Replace Removed Mail Infrastructure. ABC World News Tonight 📺 (8/19, story 5, 1:45, Muir, 6.9M) showed Pelosi saying, "I don't frankly trust the postmaster general." Jon Karl reported that Pelosi "says the pause is not enough and, quote, 'does not reverse the damage already wreaked.'" The CBS Evening News 📺 (8/19, story 4, 1:10, Tracy, 4.29M) reported Pelosi "says DeJoy admitted in a phone call with her [Wednesday] that he had no intention of replacing the sorting machines, blue mailboxes, and other key mail infrastructure that have been removed." NBC Nightly News 📺 (8/19, story 7, 1:55, Bennett, 6.01M) reported, "Exclusive new images appear to show high-volume mail sorting machines out of service and dismantled." NBC added that in a statement, Pelosi said in her conversation with DeJoy, he "frankly admitted that he had no intention of replacing the sorting machines."

Schumer Accuses Administration Of "Concealing" Details Of DeJoy's Selection. The Washington Post (8/19, Romm, Bogage, 14.2M) reports that the US Postal Service "blocked congressional lawmakers from interrogating the firm that helped select...DeJoy as the nation's postmaster general, prompting a sharp rebuke from" Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, "who called on the organization Wednesday to be more transparent as a federal investigation unfolds." Schumer "warned" that "the spat over access has hindered lawmakers as they investigate DeJoy's recent, controversial changes to mail delivery and, in the process, potentially concealed key details about the involvement of President Trump and his top aides in those decisions." Schumer "fired off his initial inquiry to the USPS in June, asking to learn more about the process that selected DeJoy, a former top Republican fundraiser, to lead the Postal Service."

Politico (8/19, Levine, 4.29M) reports that in a letter sent on Wednesday to Robert Duncan, chair of the USPS Board of Governors, Schumer said Russell Reynolds "refused to cooperate with his staff, citing a nondisclosure agreement." Schumer wrote, "This administration has repeatedly pointed to the role of Russell Reynolds to defend the selection of a Republican mega-donor with no prior postal experience as Postmaster General. I request that you immediately release Russell Reynolds from any non-disclosure agreement so that Congress and the communities served by the Postal Service can obtain the full story behind Mr. DeJoy's selection." Schumer also asked the Board to provide a "complete and fulsome explanation" of the roles President Trump and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin played in DeJoy's selection.

CNBC (8/19, Breuninger, 3.62M) reports that Schumer accused the Administration of "concealing" the White House's role in the selecting DeJoy. CNBC says Schumer's "sharp criticism sets a combative tone two days before DeJoy is scheduled to testify before a Senate committee about his overhaul of the agency, which has come under intense scrutiny amid the coronavirus pandemic and the 2020 election."

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Bipartisan Majority Support More Funding For USPS. Reuters (8/19, Kahn) reports a new Reuters/Ipsos poll released Wednesday found that a "bipartisan majority of Americans want the government to spend more money on the U.S. Postal Service, and most agree that mail delivery will be a vital part of the November election." According to the poll, "78% of Americans, including 92% of Democrats and 67% of Republicans, agreed" that "a well-functioning United States Postal Service is important to having a smooth and successful election during the coronavirus pandemic." Nearly three-quarters agreed "funding for the United States Postal Service should be increased to ensure Americans' mail gets delivered in a timely fashion."

Ross Says Census Bureau Will Meet September 30 Deadline.

Secretary of Commerce Ross said on WDBO-AM 7 Orlando, FL (8/19) that the Census Bureau should be able to meet its September 30 deadline "because of the pandemic, many more people are available, so we've hired more door-to-door census takers than we had expected to before." So far, he said, "the census is doing quite well. 101 million households have responded. That's 63.9% of all the households," but emphasized "the importance of the census is at least as great as it's ever been. And therefore it's as least as important as ever before to fill it out. So, it's only a few minutes, and it will benefit your community, it will benefit your children, benefit everybody here."

Former Democratic State AGs Oppose Liberal Court-Packing Effort.

The Washington Times (8/19, Lovelace, 492K) reports former Democratic state attorneys general are opposing "a bid by liberal activists to expand the Supreme Court and the Democratic Party's commitment to overhaul the federal judiciary in a potential Biden administration next year." This week, "liberal activists successfully got the Democratic Party to 'commit to creating new federal district and circuit judgeships' in the Democratic Party platform," and "they want to expand the Supreme Court as well." The Times says "six former Democratic state attorneys general and seven former Democratic and Republican congressmen" have "organized a new effort to ensure that the court-packing platform never becomes law and the U.S. Supreme Court does not expand the number of justices on the bench." The group "mobilized this month in support of a 'Keep Nine' amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would limit the number of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court to nine."

Facebook Removes 790 QAnon Groups.

In what the New York Times (8/19, Frenkel, 18.61M) describes as Facebook's "most sweeping action against the growing" QAnon movement, the social network said Wednesday "that it had removed 790 QAnon groups from its site and was restricting another 1,950 groups, 440 pages and more than 10,000 Instagram accounts related to the right-wing conspiracy theory." The move "followed record growth of QAnon groups on the site, much of it since the coronavirus pandemic began in March." Facebook said in a statement, "We have seen growing movements that, while not directly organizing violence, have celebrated violent acts, shown that they have weapons and suggest they will use them, or have individual followers with patterns of violent behavior."

Trump Says QAnon Movement Are "People Who Love Our Country." The CBS Evening News (8/19, story 6, 0:10, O'Donnell, 4.29M) reported that when he was asked about the group, President Trump "[said] he doesn't know much about them except that they like him, and he appreciates that." Jon Karl reported on ABC World News Tonight (8/19, story 6, 0:40, Muir, 6.9M) that Trump also said, "These are people who love our country."

The New York Times (8/19, Rogers, Roose, 18.61M) reports, "When told by a reporter about the central premise of the QAnon theory – a belief that Mr. Trump is saving the world from a satanic cult made up of pedophiles and cannibals connected to Democratic Party figures, so-called deep-state actors and Hollywood celebrities – Mr. Trump did not question the validity of the movement or the truth of those claims." The Times says Trump "said lightly," "Is that supposed to be a bad thing or a good thing? ... If I can help save the world from problems, I am willing to do it. I'm willing to put myself out there." The Times says the "cavalier response was a remarkable public expression of support for conspiracy theorists who have operated in the darkest corners of the internet and have at times been charged with domestic terrorism and planned kidnapping."

Morell, Vickers: Pardoning Snowden Would Damage US National Security.

In an op-ed for the Washington Post (8/19, 14.2M), Michael Morell, a former acting director and deputy director of the CIA, and Mike Vickers, a former under secretary of defense for intelligence, urge President Trump not to pardon Edward Snowden, arguing that it would benefit Russia and "further damage America's national security." The authors point out that "the major beneficiary of a Snowden pardon, other than Snowden himself, would be Vladimir Putin." They write that "pardoning Snowden would remove the burden from Putin of providing sanctuary to an American traitor and send a signal to any other would-be Snowdens in the U.S. intelligence community that such actions might be forgiven."

American Universities Mull Measures To Protect Students From China's National-Security Law.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Craymer, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports American universities are taking steps to protect their students from running afoul of the new national-security law that China imposed on Hong Kong, which allows China to pursue the prosecution of people even outside Hong Kong. Professors are turning to anonymous online chats so students can discuss politically-sensitive material freely, and using codes to identify students instead of names, so that students can't be linked to particular viewpoints or arguments.

New York City Teachers Threaten To Strike Over Inadequate Safety Measures In Reopening Plans.

The Washington Post (8/19, Balingit, 14.2M) reports, "The union representing New York City's public school teachers said they would not head back to class next month unless the city met the union's health and safety demands, including allowing union staff to inspect buildings and testing

all students and staff for coronavirus." Michael Mulgrew, president of the United Federation of Teachers, "acknowledged it would be impossible for the city to meet the union's demands and remain on track to open on Sept. 10." However, "he warned that the city would see 'one of the biggest debacles in history' if school leaders did not agree to the union's safety demands."

Universities Struggle To Enforce Rules Preventing Spread Of Coronavirus.

TNBC Nightly News (8/19, story 6, 2:20, Holt, 6.01M) reported on "the COVID crisis on campus as more colleges struggle to control the virus and their students' behavior." However, "critics say these schools are trying to enforce the unenforceable." NBC's Gabe Gutierrez added, "It is one thing to spread COVID in the classroom. It is another thing to stop students from spreading it at off campus parties. A challenge many schools are grappling with across the country right now."

On ABC World News Tonight (8/19, story 3, 3:05, Muir, 6.9M), Stephanie Ramos reported, "Some school officials investigating scene after scene of large college parties posted to social media. Authorities saying this has to stop."

On the CBS Evening News (8/19, story 7, 2:00, O'Donnell, 4.29M), David Begnaud reported, "Nationwide, more than 1,000 COVID cases have been reported on college campuses since July." With school starting, "masks are required, but not everyone is listening."

Schools Exploring Outdoor Learning Face Practical, Logistical Hurdles.

The Washington Times (8/19, Vondracek, 492K) reports, "Creative and also dubious ways to resolve the nation's education crisis have emerged since schools started shutting down in the spring." Some have suggested holding classes outdoors, "while others note that empty office buildings and abandoned storefronts could provide the social distancing space that a traditional classroom cannot." However, "education professionals say even the most appealing outside-the-box ideas are meeting resistance." There are numerous "practical complications," such as bad weather, as well "logistical questions such as how to social distance on a school bus and how hot lunches are to be cooked, served and cleaned up."

Cavanaugh, James: States Should Repeal Rules That Restrict Hospitals From Expanding Services.

In an op-ed for the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), Jaimie Cavanaugh, an attorney and Daryl James, a writer at the Institute for Justice, write that the coronavirus pandemic shows that a common regulation of the medical industry requiring hospitals to provide a "certificate of need" to justify expenditures to expand medical services should be repealed. Such rules are anti-competitive in nature, they argue, and proved to be a disaster during the pandemic.

Taylor: Trump's Focus On Immigration Kept DHS Officials From Working On Other Issues.

Politico (8/19, Swan, 4.29M) reports that President Trump "personally ordered" former DHS Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen "to head to the border at least half a dozen times, taking her away from her focus on pressing national security matters," according to Miles Taylor, Nielsen's former chief of staff. Taylor "told Politico that Trump often ordered" Nielsen "to leave her post in D.C. and head to the southwest border." According to Taylor, Trump told Nielsen, "Get your a-- on TV at the border, what are you doing, what the hell are you doing?" Politico says Taylor described Trump as "fixated on being able to watch his homeland security team in action. ... Taylor said the constant pressure from the White House to focus on immigration enforcement and border security kept senior DHS officials from focusing on other issues, including election security and cyber threats."

Kudlow: Economy Rebounding "Very Strongly."

Reuters (8/19, Shalal) reports, "The U.S. economy is rebounding 'very, very strongly,' and fresh federal aid will reach unemployed Americans in the next week or two, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Wednesday, shaking off concerns about a second wave of COVID-19 infections." Kudlow also "defended a reduction in the unemployment supplement to \$300 from \$600, saying stimulus measures should be reduced slowly as the economy strengthens." Kudlow said, "I think the economy is on a self-sustaining recovery and it's a V-shaped recovery. We're seeing terrific numbers."

Kudlow said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) ² (8/19, 279K) that "If you run down all these, you look at homebuilding sentiment, housing starts, housing permits, manufacturing production, auto sales, consumer spending in general, retail sales, I think it's a very strong economy coming back" in the third quarter. He said that as consumer demand picks back up, companies will "have to rebuild inventories, so that's going to be great for the factory sector, manufacturing sector, and for the entire economy."

NEC Chief Economist Joe LaVorgna said on [Newsmax TV \(USA\)](#) ³ (8/19) that "we're still very upbeat on the consumer, we're upbeat on the V-shaped recovery, and we're very generally upbeat on housing," which has shown itself to be "a very resilient...market with global affordability thanks to those low mortgage rates." He said, "With the job market improving and income growth accelerating, especially at the lower end, thanks to the President's initiatives and his intention to do more if the Democrats don't come on board with a phase four, as I said, we're optimistic on housing despite some of these dislocations in markets. We're optimistic and expect the economy to do well because consumers are going to benefit longer term."

Conway Says Congress Must Pass Additional Relief Package. Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to the President, was asked on [Fox News' America's Newsroom](#) (8/19, 896K) about the President's response to the coronavirus and said, "Until we have vaccines, until we have totally eradicated the virus, we are trying to mitigate the effects of this dual financial and medical crisis." She said President Trump "has already surged trillions of dollars in direct relief to the states and to 80 million Americans," and "we also need a fourth package to go through that has School Choice Now, that has additional money for PPP, that is helping people to get back on their feet economically."

Morgenstern: Trump Providing Leadership To Reopen Economy Safely. White House Deputy Press Secretary Brian Morgenstern said on [Fox Business The Evening Edit](#) (8/19) that President Trump has "been very responsive to circumstances" throughout his term and "now, circumstances warrant the president coming out and letting the American people know that we are getting things under control, we are heading in the right direction, using safe, common sense mitigation techniques to slow the spread of the virus." He said, "We're going to get through this together because of Operation Warp Speed and other measures the president has taken through his leadership, that there's a brighter future ahead, we are going to reopen the economy safely, we'll continue to do that."

Pelosi Under Pressure From Her Caucus To Vote On Extending Jobless Aid.

[Bloomberg](#) (8/19, Wasson, Mohsin, 4.73M) reports that on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany indicated that President Trump is "willing to look at \$25 billion in additional funding for the U.S. Postal Service," which is "the amount Democrats put in their original stimulus plan and are including in post office legislation they expect to pass in the House on Saturday." Bloomberg adds that "more than half the Democrats in the House have signed on to

a letter urging Pelosi to use Saturday's session for a vote on a measure to revive the \$600 per week supplemental unemployment insurance that expired at the end of July." Bloomberg says "the 117 lawmakers on the letter organized by the moderate New Democrat Coalition include some progressives such as Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez." However, a "senior Democratic aide said the House won't take up the unemployment aid during Saturday's session." CNBC (8/19, Pramuk, 3.62M) provides similar coverage on its website.

Reuters (8/19, Morgan, Cornwell) reports that on Wednesday, Chief of Staff Meadows "called on Democrats to use Saturday's vote...as a vehicle for coronavirus relief including stimulus checks for individuals and funding for personal protective equipment and schools." Meadows said, "I think the outlook for a skinny deal is better than it's ever been and yet we are still not there. ... If Speaker Pelosi moves forward a single bill on postal...let's add in the things we can agree upon." The Washington Times (8/19, Muñoz, 492K) reports Meadows "said that he's optimistic" the Democrats' Postal Service bill is a sign that Pelosi "is thawing on her opposition to a 'piecemeal' approach to coronavirus relief."

The New York Times (8/19, 18.61M) reports that Senate Republicans are "circulating text of a narrow virus relief package that would spend less money, in fewer areas, than earlier offers, including reviving extra unemployment benefits at half the original rate." However, according to the Times, "The latest offer...is unlikely to alter the debate" because Democrats "have repeatedly rejected previous Republican offers as insufficient." The Times also reports that the GOP proposal "drops one of the few areas of bipartisan consensus from the original Republican plan and something Mr. Trump has said he wants to see: a second round of direct payments to low- and middle-income Americans."

Professor: Senate Has "Rolled Over" As Trump Abuses Process For Appointing Senior Officials.

In an op-ed for the New York Times (8/19, 18.61M), Stephen I. Vladeck, a professor at the University of Texas School of Law, writes that it is "easy to blame" President Trump "for abusing the labyrinthine process for filling vacancies in senior executive branch positions – because he has. ... But the real culprit for these abuses, and the principal obstacle to any meaningful reform, is the Senate – which has simply rolled over in the name of Republican Party unity as the president has run roughshod over its constitutional role." Vladeck argues that the Constitution "expressly lays out a unique and central role for the Senate ('Advice and Consent') in this process." While there are "obvious ways for Congress to close some of the loopholes that President Trump has exploited," he adds, the "real solution is for the Senate to do its job."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela's Government Denouncing People Exposed To Coronavirus As "Bioterrorists."

The New York Times (8/19, Kurmanaev, Herrera, Urdaneta, 18.61M) reports "officials in Venezuela's government are denouncing people who may have come into contact with the coronavirus as 'bioterrorists' and urging their neighbors to report them." Moreover, "the government is detaining and intimidating doctors and experts who question" President Nicolás Maduro's "policies on the virus." The policy "is corralling thousands of Venezuelans who are streaming home after losing jobs abroad, holding them in makeshift containment centers out of fear that they may be infected."

France Reports Spike In New Coronavirus Cases.

Bloomberg (8/19, Connelly, 4.73M) reports, "France reported its biggest increase in new coronavirus cases since early May, before the country emerged from an almost two-month lockdown." New cases "totaled 3,776 over the past 24 hours, the government's health office reported Wednesday, the largest daily jump since May 6. Deaths increased by 17 to 30,468." Authorities in France have started "to tighten restrictions to curb the spread, including requiring masks in busy outdoor areas of cities like Paris and Marseilles."

European Governments Trying To Prevent Second Wave Without Resorting To Strict Lockdowns.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Dalton, Bender, Stancati, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports COVID-19 appears to be surging again across Europe, prompting governments to try and avert a second wave without resorting to the strict measures that devastated economies in the early days of the pandemic. Instead of broad lockdowns, officials are taking a narrower approach with mask mandates, closures of nightclubs, and quarantine requirements for some travelers.

Administration To Request That UN Initiate "Snapback" Sanctions Against Iran.

Barak Ravid writes on Axios (8/19, 521K) that the Administration "has notified Israel that it plans to submit a formal request at the UN Security Council on Thursday to initiate 'snapback' sanctions on Iran, Israeli officials tell me." Secretary of State Pompeo "is expected to arrive in New York on Thursday and present formal letters to the UN secretary-general and the UN ambassador from Indonesia, who holds the Security Council's rotating presidency. The letter will then be circulated to other members, beginning a 30-day consultation period." Ravid adds, "U.S. officials believe that the renewal of international sanctions will lead Iran to withdraw from the nuclear deal – and likely make it impossible for Democratic nominee Joe Biden to put the deal back together if he wins in November."

The New York Times (8/19, Jakes, 18.61M) says the move "sets up a new confrontation at the Security Council, where European allies are resisting the so-called snapback sanctions in a last-ditch attempt to hold together the fraying 2015 accord." The EU "and officials in China and Russia – the other powers that brokered the deal during the Obama administration – have questioned the legality of the U.S. demand, since the country is no longer part of the nuclear agreement." But Pompeo "noted that the accord was rooted in a U.N. Security Council resolution and, as such, he said Iran's violations must be punished as they would under any other international commitment that is backed by the world body."

Pompeo told Fox News' Special Report (8/19, 1.53M) that he expects "all the sanctions that were in place" on Iran will resume after he meets with the UN Security Council "and the world will be a safer place. The Iranians won't have the chance to have Russian air defense systems, Chinese tanks, all the things that pose risk and instability in the Middle East." When asked whether the US would extend sanctions to Russia and China if they refuse the sanctions, Pompeo said, "Absolutely. We've already done that when we've seen any country violate our sanctions," and despite lack of support from European countries, "the world needs to know, President Trump makes it clear, we're going to do the right thing, we're going to keep the world safe."

The Washington Post (8/19, Morello, Sonmez, 14.2M) reports that in announcing that he is sending Pompeo to the UN, "Trump said his decision in 2018 to abandon the landmark deal struck with Iran during the Obama administration had made the world safer." Trump said, "Two years ago, I withdrew the United States from the disastrous Iran nuclear deal, which was a product of the Obama-Biden foreign policy failure, a failure like few people have seen in terms of the amount of money we paid for absolutely nothing in a short-term deal. ... I won't say anything because I

don't like saying it, but Iran doesn't have so much money to give to the world anymore – to the terrorists, to give to al-Qaeda, various other groups of people that they were funding.”

Treasury Sanctions UAE-Based Companies Over Ties To Iranian Airline.

Reuters (8/19, Psaledakis, Warburton) reports that the Treasury Department said Wednesday that the US has “imposed sanctions on two United Arab Emirates-based companies...accusing them of providing material support to Iranian airline Mahan Air.” In a statement, Treasury “said Parthia Cargo and Delta Parts Supply FZC provided key parts and logistics services for Mahan Air, which is blacklisted under U.S. measures to fight terrorism and proliferators of weapons of mass destruction.” Treasury also imposed sanctions “on Amin Mahdavi, a UAE-based Iranian national, for owning or controlling Parthia Cargo.” The AP (8/19) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said in a statement, “The Iranian regime uses Mahan Air as a tool to spread its destabilizing agenda around the world, including to the corrupt regimes in Syria and Venezuela, as well as terrorist groups throughout the Middle East. ... The United States will continue to take action against those supporting this airline.”

The Washington Times (8/19, Meier, 492K) says the sanctions “freeze all U.S. assets held by the blacklisted companies and prohibits them from conducting business with Americans.”

Iranian “Ghost Ships” Reappear On Radar After Months Of Silence.

The Washington Free Beacon (8/19, Kredo, 78K) reports that Iranian “ghost ships’ engaged in illicit shipments of the country’s heavily sanctioned oil have reappeared on radar systems after months of silence, raising fresh concerns about the regime’s efforts to skirt international sanctions in a bid to fill its cash reserves.” The Free Beacon says that for the past year, at least 80 tankers have been sailing around the world “as ‘ghost ships,’ a practice of turning off a vessel’s GPS system to hide its movements from international monitors.” At least 14 such ships “mysteriously reengaged their GPS transponders this month, providing a window into Iran’s illegal shipment of oil to countries such as China. ... United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), a watchdog group that has been tracking Iran’s ghost ships, told the Washington Free Beacon that the sudden reappearance of these ships in the Persian Gulf may be due to Iran’s recent military exercises in the region.”

Syria Gives Russia Additional Land To Expand Air Base.

Citing a “Russian government document published on Wednesday,” Reuters (8/19) reports that “Syrian authorities have agreed to give Russia additional land and coastal waters in order to expand its military air base at Hmeimim.” According to Reuters, “The agreement, signed by representatives of the two countries on July 21 and which became effective on July 30, concerns an area of land and sea near Syria’s northern Latakia province, where the Russian-controlled Hmeimim air base is located. ... The territory, comprising eight hectares of land and a further eight hectares of coastal waters, will be granted to Russia on a temporary basis and at no cost, the document said.”

Pompeo Says US “Keeping Its Eye On” Saudi Nuclear Ambitions.

The New York Post (8/19, Bowden, Nelson, 4.57M) reports Secretary of State Pompeo “says that nuclear proliferation by Saudi Arabia is a real ‘risk’ --listing it among rogue regimes that the United States is keeping its eye on.” The comments “follow reports the Middle Eastern kingdom is building a secret uranium processing plant with help from China – a charge that the secretary did not deny when repeatedly pressed on whether the intelligence was true.” Pompeo said, “We’re

trying to take down risk of proliferation all across the world, whether that's in Iran, Saudi Arabia, or North Korea, or Russia."

Administration Advancing Arms Sale To UAE.

The New York Times (8/19, Mazzetti, Wong, 18.61M) reports the Administration has "accelerated a push to sell the F-35 stealth fighter and advanced armed drones to the United Arab Emirates, at a time when the Gulf nation is working with the Trump administration on a historic plan to formalize diplomatic ties with Israel, according to American officials familiar with the discussions." Administration officials in recent weeks delivers "a classified briefing about the F-35 to the Emirati military – despite some concerns among National Security Council staff about the wisdom of disclosing details on one of the Pentagon's most advanced weapons to a foreign government before a decision about a potential arms sale has been completed." US officials "deny that the new push to sell the advanced weapons is a direct reward for the Emirati role in a diplomatic breakthrough, announced by President Trump last week, where the Emirates would become just the third Arab nation to recognize Israel."

Treasury Sanctions UAE Firms Over Ties To Iranian Airline. The AP (8/19) reports that on Wednesday, the Trump Administration "slapped sanctions on two aviation companies in the United Arab Emirates over their work for an Iranian airline already under U.S. sanctions," and, "at the same time, federal prosecutors filed criminal charges against one of the companies for violations of U.S. export control regulations." According to the AP, the Treasury Department "announced it is imposing penalties on the two firms and the Iranian owner of one of them for providing parts and logistics services to Iran's Mahan Air, which has been subject to U.S. counterterrorism sanctions since 2019 for its support for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard." The sanctions "target UAE-based Parthia Cargo and Delta Parts Supply along with Parthia's owner, Amin Mahdavi, and freeze any assets they may have in U.S. jurisdiction as well as barring Americans from doing business with them." The AP adds that the DC US Attorney's Office also "filed charges against Parthia Cargo and Mahdavi related to alleged unlicensed re-exports of U.S. aircraft parts to Iran." Reuters (8/19, Psaledakis, Warburton) quotes Treasury Secretary Mnuchin as saying, "The Iranian regime uses Mahan Air as a tool to spread its destabilizing agenda around the world, including to the corrupt regimes in Syria and Venezuela."

Palestinians Denounce Israel-UAE Deal In Protest Organized By Hamas.

The AP (8/19) reports that on Wednesday in the Gaza Strip, "hundreds of Palestinians...rallied against the U.S.-brokered deal to normalize ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates." The AP says protesters "burned Israeli and American flags," and "trampled on posters of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Donald Trump." However, "unlike Palestinian protesters last Friday...who also burned posters of the Emirati crown prince, the Gaza demonstrators stopped short of burning symbols of the UAE – apparently not to antagonize the Gulf Arab country, where tens of thousands of Palestinians work and live." The AP reports that the protest was "organized by" Hamas.

Israeli Court Blocks Demolition Of Accused Killer's Family Home In The West Bank. According to the Washington Post (8/19, Hendrix, 14.2M), "An Israeli court decision last week blocking the military from demolishing the family home of a Palestinian man accused of killing a soldier represents a rare intervention against a policy that is widely popular in Israel but sharply criticized abroad." The Post says the suspect is "accused of dropping a block on an Israeli army unit from the roof of his third-floor apartment during a predawn clash in his village in the occupied West Bank." The Post reports that "a three-judge panel of Israel's Supreme Court ruled it would

be 'disproportional' to displace the accused man's wife and eight children, who were apparently asleep and unaware of the unfolding events." The Post says the ruling "sparked outrage among conservative Israeli politicians," and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "immediately called for the high court to reopen the case after what would normally be the judges' final word."

Pompeo Dismisses Invitation To Visit China, Calling It A "PR Stunt."

The New York Post (8/19, Nelson, Bowden, 4.57M) reports Secretary of State Pompeo on Wednesday "told The Post that he won't accept a 'PR stunt' invitation to visit China." Last month, a Chinese government spokesman "invited Pompeo to tour the western Xinjiang province to see that there are no 'concentration camps' for members of the Muslim Uighur minority." Pompeo said, "I suspect that was a PR stunt and not a real offer."

Navarro Claims China "Using" Virus To Push Strategic Agenda. Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Peter Navarro was asked about China's offer to provide the Philippines with vaccines in exchange for dropping a dispute in the South China Sea on Fox Business Making Money (8/19). Navarro said that "the more we see things like that, the more you have to wonder about the origins of the China virus to begin with and wonder about just how the China Communist Party keeps using this virus to push their strategic domination of the world, to punish the American people, to infect the American people." Navarro said, "I think it's high time that we investigate what China is doing," adding that though the country has followed through with trade purchases, "the bad news for the American people in our political system is that, clearly, China has thrown its lot in with Joe Biden and what they're going to do is wait to see what the election has for them."

State Department Officially Notifies Hong Kong It Has Terminated Three Agreements. Reuters (8/19, Psaledakis) reports the State Department "said it notified Hong Kong on Wednesday that Washington has suspended or terminated three bilateral agreements with the semi-autonomous city following China's imposition of a sweeping national security law." The termination of the agreements follows President Trump's order last month "to end Hong Kong's special status under U.S. law to punish China for what he called 'oppressive actions' against the former British colony." The State Department "said in a statement the agreements ended covered 'the surrender of fugitive offenders, the transfer of sentenced persons, and reciprocal tax exemptions on income derived from the international operation of ships.'"

NYTimes Analysis: Debate Over Viral Image Underscores Battle Between US And China For Influence In Pacific. The New York Times (8/19, Cave, 18.61M) reports an image of a Chinese ambassador "walking over the backs of 30 people on a remote island in the nation of Kiribati" went viral this week, reinforcing the view in some, including American and Australian officials, of "Beijing's domineering, colonial approach." But "to others, including people from Kiribati, the criticism was a sign of ignorance." The ambassador, Tang Songgen, was "simply taking part in a local welcome ceremony, typically reserved for weddings, that elders had chosen to adapt." Notably, the Times says, the debate showed nations in the Pacific that "China and the United States are waging a war of influence across the vast region that often brings aid and attention - but also an urge to talk (or walk) first and ask questions later."

Russia's Defense Ministry Says US Spy Planes Were Intercepted Above Black Sea.

Reuters (8/19, Ivanova) reports, "Russia's defence ministry said on Wednesday it had scrambled a jet above the Black Sea to intercept two U.S. spy planes approaching its border, following a similar incident earlier in the day over the Baltic, Interfax reported." In both instances, "the U.S. planes turned away before reaching the Russian border, the defence ministry was cited as saying."

UN Accused Of Racism Over Survey Question Asking Staff If They Are "Yellow."

Reuters (8/19, Nichols) reports, "The United Nations has been accused by some of its staff of racism after it issued a survey that included a question asking how they identify themselves, and offered 'yellow' among the possible responses." The "U.N. Survey on Racism" was sent out as part of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' "campaign to eradicate racism and promote dignity," an email accompanying the survey stated. However, "the first question, on how staff identify themselves, itself reflected an historic Western racist view of Asians by listing 'yellow' as an option, several U.N. staffers told Reuters."

Critics Accuse Trudeau Of Covering Up Ethics Scandal By Suspending Parliament.

The Washington Post (8/19, Coletta, 14.2M) reports Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday announced he was suspending Parliament for more than five weeks, a move that opposition parties claimed was aimed at impeding "parliamentary probes into an ethics controversy engulfing his government." Trudeau framed "the suspension – or prorogation – of Parliament as necessary, saying his 2019 agenda had become outdated in a world reshaped by the pandemic." The Post says that "several parliamentary committees have been investigating the government's decision to award a contract to run a \$690 million student grant program to WE Charity, which has close ties" to Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau, who "abruptly" resigned on Monday.

US Joins France And UN In Denouncing Mali Coup.

Reuters (8/19) reports that in a statement released on Wednesday, Secretary of State Pompeo indicated that the Trump Administration "strongly condemns the Aug. 18 mutiny in Mali...and called on all political and military actors to work towards a restoration of constitutional government." Pompeo's statement read, "We urge all stakeholders in Mali to engage in peaceful dialogue, to respect Malians' rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to reject violence."

The AP (8/19, Ahmed, Petesch) reports that also on Wednesday, "the junta that forced Mali's president to resign urged people to go back to business as usual...seeking to normalize their coup amid global condemnation from leaders who feared the power grab would only further mire West Africa's fight against growing Islamic extremism." The AP says the African Union "suspended Mali from the bloc and demanded the release of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and other government officials." The AP adds that "former colonizer" France, "which has worked to stabilize the country since leading a 2013 military operation to oust extremists from power in the north, called for a return to civilian rule," and the UN, "which is spending \$1.2 billion a year on its peacekeeping mission in Mali, also strongly condemned the coup."

According to the Washington Post (8/19, Paquette, 14.2M), "The soldiers who overthrew Mali's president...revealed themselves Wednesday on state television, pledging to hold a general election after a 'reasonable time' and tame the security crisis gripping the West African nation. 'We can restore this country to its former greatness,' said one of the mutiny's leaders, Col. Maj. Ismael Wagué, who vowed to build a civilian-led transition team and 'strong institutions capable of better managing our everyday lives.'" The Post says President Keita's ouster "followed weeks of protests in the capital, Bamako, where demonstrators accused Keita of corruption and taking weak action against fighters loyal to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State."

The New York Times (8/19, Madean, Peltier, 18.61M) reports that "in an address to the nation early Wednesday morning, a spokesman for the coup plotters asked the many foreign

forces that have been trying to stabilize the insecurity-wracked country for years – including United Nations peacekeepers and thousands of French soldiers – to continue supporting Mali.” According to the Times, “The coup leaders, who called themselves the National Commission for the People’s Salvation, made no direct reference to the protest movement, known as the June 5 Movement, that had led ballooning demonstrations over the past two months,” and “the movement’s figurehead, a popular imam in Bamako, Mahmoud Dicko, has not yet spoken about the coup.”

Lukashenko Vows To Crack Down On Anti-Government Protests In Belarus.

The AP (8/19, Karmanau) reports that on Wednesday, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko “threatened...to bring criminal charges against opposition leaders and called on his security services to get tougher on demonstrators – a possible harbinger of a renewed crackdown on the peaceful protests challenging the extension of his 26-year rule.” The AP says Lukashenko “also accused the West of fomenting the unrest as he sought to consolidate his grip on power amid widening demonstrations.” The AP goes on to report that Lukashenko “spoke as the European Union rejected the official results of the Aug. 9 vote that kept him in office and expressed solidarity with protesters.”

The Washington Post (8/19, Birnbaum, Khurshudyan, 14.2M) says EU leaders “are trying to support Belarusian protesters’ demands for democracy without turning the situation into a geopolitical confrontation between Russia and the West. ‘The protests in Belarus are not about geopolitics,’ European Council President Charles Michel told reporters after the video discussion.” Michel added, “This is, in the first place, a national crisis. This is about the right of the people to freely elect their leadership. We stand firmly behind the right of the Belarusian people to determine their own fate.”

The New York Times (8/19, Erlanger, 18.61M) reports that the EU “said on Wednesday that they would not recognize the results of the recent Belarus election and would shortly impose sanctions on those who were involved in electoral fraud and the repression of protests.” However, according to the Times, “While urging peaceful dialogue between the government and the opposition, the Europeans did not call explicitly for a rerun of the vote, as the opposition has demanded.” The Times says that as “European leaders conferred by teleconference, riot police were reappearing on the streets of Minsk,” and “in a meeting with his security council, Mr. Lukashenko ordered his police commanders to put down protests, signaling a possible escalation after a week and a half of mass demonstrations against his rule. ‘There should no longer be any disorder in Minsk of any kind,’ Mr. Lukashenko said.”

Nevertheless, Reuters (8/19, Maknovsky, Baczynska) reports that “hundreds of Belarusian protesters gathered in Minsk on Wednesday evening, defying [the new order from...Lukashenko to his police to clear the streets of the capital.” According to Reuters, “By early Wednesday evening, there was no sign of a major new operation to clear demonstrators from the streets,” and “hundreds of protesters assembled in front of the Interior Ministry, which runs the police.”

On NBC Nightly News TM (8/19, story 8, 1:50, Holt, 6.01M), Richard Engel reported that Lukashenko is “using Soviet-era tactics to hang on. Activists say police detained around 6,000 protesters, many saying they have been brutally beaten. The violence only made the crowds grow.”

On the CBS Evening News TM (8/19, story 9, 1:20, O'Donnelli, 4.29M), Chris Livesay reported, “There are fears among America’s European allies that Russian President Vladimir Putin could move in to prop up his former Soviet ally. As Lukashenko desperately clings to power at all costs.”

WSJournal: Kerry Glosses Over Obama's Numerous Failures In Foreign Policy.

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) pushes back against former Secretary of State John Kerry's claim during his convention speech that President Trump inherited "a more peaceful world" and "bankrupted it." The Journal points to the Obama Administration's missteps in the Middle East, including the rise of ISIS, and a nuclear deal with Iran that allowed it to increase its influence in Yemen, Syria and Iraq, as well as standing by while Russia invaded the Ukraine, and failing to curb China's ambitions in the South China Sea.

WSJournal: Venezuela Using Stranded Americans As Political Leverage.

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) editorializes that Venezuela is barring more than 800 Americans stranded in the country from leaving. The Journal says President Nicolás Maduro, pinched by US sanctions, is using the Americans as political pawns.

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Target Sales Jump As Pandemic Speeds E-Commerce Shift](#)
[Democrats Nominate Kamala Harris To Be Joe Biden's Running Mate](#)
[Joe Biden United The Democrats – It's Not Likely To Last](#)
[Uber And Lyft Threaten California Shutdown: Here's What's At Stake](#)
[Your Covid Gray Hair? It's Here To Stay](#)
[China's National-Security Law Reaches Into Harvard, Princeton Classrooms](#)

New York Times:

[In Accepting Bid, Harris Warns U.S. Is At Crossroads](#)
[A Nominee To Link Democrats' Past And Future](#)
['Do Not Let Them Take Away Your Democracy,' Obama Says](#)
[Raging Fires Add To California's August Torment](#)
[Trump Presses Weapons Sale To The U.A.E.](#)
[Trump Says QAnon Followers 'Love Our Country,' Raising Alarm](#)

Washington Post:

[This Moment, Long Desired By Biden, Is Not What He Envisioned](#)
[Tech Titans' Outsize Gains Mask Broader Market Reality](#)
[Harris Gives Convention Historic Heft Report Ties Manafort To Claims On Ukraine](#)
[States Race To Assuage Voters' Fears About Ballots](#)
[To Democrats, One Issue Subsumes All: The Nation's Essence Is At Stake](#)

Financial Times:

[Apple's Market Value Hits \\$2TN](#)
[Oracle's Ellison Steps Out Of Character With TikTok Approach](#)
[Mali's Mutineers Plan Elections After Overthrow Of President](#)

Washington Times:

Harris Says Biden Will Lead Nation To Better Future
Aging Shipyards Hinder High-Tech Navy
IRS Will Come After Share Of Jobless Benefits
Take It Outside: Schools Weight Outdoor Learning
Clinton Cloud Looms Despite Optimism For Biden Victory
Black Women Can Tilt Vote, If They Turn Out

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: California-Wildfires; DNC; Coronavirus-Schools; George Floyd-Charged Officers; USPS; Trump-QAnon; Hollywood-Hate Crime; Dallas-Fire At Plastics Facility; NYC-Woman Rescued From Under Vehicle; FedEx-Plane's Emergency Landing; Philadelphia-Garbage Man Raises Money To Help Fellow Workers.

CBS: California-Wildfires; DNC; DNC-Kamala Harris; USPS; Trump-Goodyear; Trump-QAnon; Coronavirus-Schools; Coronavirus-School Employees; Belarus-Protests; Dallas-Fire At Plastics Facility; Severe Weather; Georgia-Teachers Make Music Video To Welcome Kids Back.

NBC: DNC; DNC-Kamala Harris; DNC-Expert Comment; California-Wildfires; Severe Weather; Coronavirus-Schools; USPS; Belarus-Protests; Golden State Killer; Vermont-State Gov't Feeds Locals With CARES Act.

Network TV At A Glance:

DNC – 13 minutes, 10 seconds

Coronavirus – 9 minutes, 25 seconds

USPS – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: DNC-Speeches; DNC-Kamala Harris; DNC-Pelosi; Trump-QAnon; Coronavirus-Schools; AGBarr-ISIS Murderers.

CBS: DNC-Kamala Harris; DNC-Speeches; Trump-Goodyear; California-Wildfires; Coronavirus-Schools; Stocks.

FOX: DNC-Kamala Harris; DNC-Speeches; Trump-Tweets; US-Iran Sanctions; Stocks.

NPR: DNC-Speeches; USPS; Facebook-QAnon; California-Wildfires.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Trump — Participates in the arrival of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq; participates in a restricted bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq; participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq; delivers remarks at Marriott Building Products
- Vice President Pence — No public schedule released

US Senate:

- Senate on recess from 7 Aug – 8 Sep

US House:

- Congressional Progressive Caucus ad-hoc hearing on 'attacks on the USPS' – Congressional Progressive Caucus hold livestreamed ad-hoc hearing on 'efforts by the Trump administration to sabotage the operation of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) ahead of November's election',

chaired by Caucus Co-Chairs Democratic Reps. Mark Pocan and Pramila Jayapal and featuring testimony on 'U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's recent actions to hinder the reliable delivery of mail'. Witnesses reportedly include former USPS Board of Governors Vice Chair David Williams ~ Recently-appointed U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, who is known to have donated \$360,000 to President Donald Trump's reelection campaign this year, has been accused of helping 'the president's campaign to sabotage the election by manipulating the USPS to disenfranchise voters', including by reducing overtime, restricting deliveries, and providing conflicting information on the timeline for mail-in ballots; 4:00 PM

- House of Representatives on recess from 31 Jul – 7 Sep

Cabinet Officers:

- President Trump welcomes Iraqi PM to the White House – President Donald Trump welcomes Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi to the White House * Other attendees include Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin

Location: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

Visitors:

- President Trump welcomes Iraqi PM to the White House – President Donald Trump welcomes Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi to the White House * Other attendees include Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin

Location: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

This Town:

- Alliance for Health Policy online event with FDA deputy commissioner – Alliance for Health Policy hosts 'The Brazda Breakfast: Reporting on the Future of Health Care' online event with Food and Drug Administration Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs Dr Anand Shah, who addresses the FDA's role in the national coronavirus (COVID-19) response; 9:00 AM
- ACEEE Summer Study continues – ACEEE 2020 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Buildings continues, with speakers today including Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko; 11:30 AM
- Washington FPC video briefing on 'Update on U.S. Security Cooperation and Defense Trade' – Foreign Press Center On-the-Record Video Briefing on 'Update on U.S. Security Cooperation and Defense Trade', with Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs R. Clarke Cooper discussing the latest developments in U.S. security assistance, defense trade, peacekeeping capacity building, and humanitarian mine action; 1:00 PM
- CAP hosts online discussion on 'Making 2021 the Start of a Better Way Forward' at the DNC – 'Making 2021 the Start of a Better Way Forward' online discussion hosted by the Center for American Progress at the Democratic National Convention, on the challenges faced in 2020 and 'ways to meet these challenges and rebuild in such a way that is rooted firmly in bold progressive policy and will leave no American behind'. Includes keynote from California Governor Gavin Newsom and panelists Democratic Reps. Ruben Gallego and Mike Levin; 1:00 PM
- Iraqi foreign minister discusses U.S.-Iraq relations – U.S. Institute for Peace hosts Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein and Minister of Migration and Displacement Evan Faq Jabro, who discuss U.S.-Iraq relations and the current reality and future of Iraqi displaced communities, respectively; 2:00 PM

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From: Parry, Shannon V. (IOD) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)
Subject: Email one FW: ADL "Protocols" Message

Copy.

[REDACTED] b5

On Aug 20, 2020 8:06 AM, "Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED] wrote: b7E
So you can see how I handled something yesterday

V/R

Arlene A. Gaylord
Assistant Director
FBI
Information Management Division

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] b7E
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:37 PM
To: Gaylord, Arlene A. (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: ADL "Protocols" Message
Importance: High

Need to talk ASAP please. Thanks.

From: [REDACTED] b6
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:33 PM b7C
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] b7E
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - ADL "Protocols" Message

Brian –

As discussed; issue is getting growing play nationally. The below is the ADL internal directions with a link to our external tweet. Bureau may want to get ahead of this as more radical entities respond. Here if you need anything.

RDs and regional staff:

Many of you have received public inquiries today about a tweet from the FBI Records Vault that disseminated a link labeled, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." Since there's been widespread confusion about the FBI's motives for doing this, and concern that in doing so the FBI is spreading an antisemitic text, we published the following explainer on our website, which we will also be tweeting out shortly.

<https://www.adl.org/news/article/the-fbi-shared-antisemitic-protocols-on-twitter>

Our law enforcement team is reaching out to the FBI to notify them about concerns that the tweet should have included more context about "The Protocols."

Feel free to share this link with anyone who asks about the FBI tweet.



b6
b7C



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 6:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FBI Public Affairs News Briefing Friday, August 21, 2020

b7E

Mobile version and searchable archives available at [REDACTED]

TO: THE DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF

DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020 6:30 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

LEADING THE NEWS

- Bannon Pleads Not Guilty To Charges Stemming From Fundraising For Private Border Wall.

PROTESTS

- Airman Charged With Trying To Burn Police Car During Utah Protests.
- Goodyear Backtracks, Will Allow Employees To Support "Blue Lives Matter."
- Trump: Biden-Harris Want To Abolish Police.
- Trump Says Suburban Women Like His Law And Order Stance.
- Bernhardt Touts Effort To Protect Monuments, Tell "America's Story."
- Rioters Assault Officers During Attack On Federal Building in Portland.
- Chicago Mayor Defends Increased Police Presence Near Home.
- Security Footage Captures Retired NYPD Sergeant Being Beaten On The Ground.
- Police, Protesters Clash Outside Pittsburgh Mayor's Home.

OPERATION LEGEND

- Federal Drug And Gun Charges Filed Against 11 During Operation Legend In Milwaukee.
- Barr Visits Cleveland To Tout Operation LeGend.
- FBI Seeks Information On July Kansas City Homicide.
- Trump Says Operation Legend Shows He Stands For "Safety And Security."

COUNTER TERRORISM

- Barr: DOJ Will Appeal Ruling, Seek Death Penalty For Tsarnaev.
- FBI Probing Bomb Threat At U Of Nebraska At Kearney.
- Berlin Security Services Say Attacker "Was Not On The Radar."
- Manchester Concert Bomber's Brother Sentenced To 55 Years In Prison.

CONGRESSIONAL MATTERS

- Johnson Subpoenas Former State Department Official Linked To Steele Dossier.
- WTimes Provides Examples Of Obama Administration Spying Before And After 2016 Election
- Hannity: Evidence Of FBI's "Premeditated Fraud" Is "Overwhelming."
- Former CIA Officer Accused Of Spying For China Called "Extreme Flight Risk."
- Human Rights Group Files FOIA For DNI Khashoggi Report.
- Partner Of Julian Assange Launches Crowdfunding Campaign To Fight Extradition.
- IC's "Hands Are Tied" To Stop Electoral Misinformation Shared By Trump.
- ODNI, FBI, NCSC Launch Protected Voices Initiative To Harden Campaigns Against Interference Efforts.

- Evanina Warns Of Post-Election Day Uncertainty.
- IC Warns 5G Technologies Subject Critical Systems To Greater Cyber Threats.
- Bellingcat: CNN Team Surveilled By Russian Operatives In Central African Republic.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTIONS

- Indictment Details Ruthless Rise Of New Gang In DC Suburbs.
- Maryland Man Pleads Guilty To Kidnapping In Tool Purchase Scheme.
- Continuing Coverage: FBI Investigating Disappearance Of Georgia Woman.
- FBI Investigating Bank Robbery In Illinois.
- Missouri Sex Offender Charged With Murdering Child.
- Pennsylvania Man Sentenced For Lying To FBI.
- Wanted New Mexico Man Surrenders To Police.
- South Carolina Man Charged With Sex Trafficking.
- Continuing Coverage: Pennsylvania Police Announces Recovery Of Missing Girl.
- FBI Provides Update To Remains Found In Kentucky.
- Continuing Coverage: Kidnapping Suspect Returned To Louisiana.
- Former Tennessee Police Officer Sentenced For Rapes.
- Texas Public Official Sentenced For Bribery.
- Colorado Grand Jury Indicts Illegal Masseurs.
- Wisconsin Police Investigating Bank Robbery.
- Georgia Man Pleads Not Guilty To Cock-Fighting Allegations.
- California Security Guard Stops Bank Robbery.
- Texas Men Facing Charges Over Illegal Gambling.
- Illinois Judge Frees Gang Member Over Insufficient Evidence.
- Wanted Hawaii Man Arrested In California.
- Iowa Resident Facing Drug Charges.
- Operation In Utah Leads To Drug Seizures, Nearly 70 Arrests.
- FBI Involved With Investigation That Led To Seizure Of More Than 3,000 Pounds Of Meth.
- Meth Case Defendant Sentenced To 14 Years In Prison.
- Florida Resident Gets Five-Year Prison Sentence After Pleading Guilty To Drug Charge.
- Indictment Charges Three With Murder In Connection With Kidnapping, Drug Trafficking.

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

- Four Arrested In Vietnam For Coronavirus PPE Scam Targeting US Buyers.
- Attorneys For Indicted Chicago Alderman Claim Investigators Bungled Wiretaps.
- Rep. Chabot Claims Exoneration In FBI Probe.
- Ohio Nonprofit Pleads Not Guilty In Bribery Probe.
- Former Federal Prosecutor: Loughlin's Daughters Were Complicit In College Admissions Scandal.
- Former Uber Executive Charged In Hacking Cover-Up.
- US Charges Former Suburban Chicago School Chief With Looting Lunch Program For Needy.
- Jamaican Man Sentenced In Florida Lottery Scheme.
- US Charges California Man As Ringleader Of Scheme To Defraud National Retailer.
- Alabama Doctor, Others Sentenced In Healthcare Fraud Scheme.
- Insurance Executive Sentenced For Bribery, Corruption In North Carolina.
- Financial Salesmen Drop Fight Against SEC Effort To Freeze Assets In Par Funding Dispute.

TECHNOLOGY

- WSJournal: Trump's Comments About Oracle Colors Sale Of TikTok.
- CISA Infrastructure Head Announces Resignation.
- Biden Staffers "Quietly Draft" US Cyberdefense Policy.
- China Calls Taiwanese Hacking Allegations "Malicious Slander."
- US Industry Survey Finds Cybersecurity Programs Maturing.

ANALYSIS & COMMENTARIES

- WTimes Analysis: Soros-Funded Progressive DAs In Place In Cities Where Crime Is Soaring.

Domestic News

- FBI Criticized For Tweeting Link To Anti-Semitic Tract.
- Trial Date Set In Civil Suit Over 2017 Park Police Shooting.

WASHINGTON NEWS

- Trump Says Administration's Coronavirus Response Has Been "Phenomenal."
- Redfield Expects Coronavirus Deaths To Start To Decline Next Week.
- Azar Offers Assurances That Vaccine Testing Process Is Rigorous.
- Azar: Administration Is Not Seeking Mandates For Masks.
- HHS Reverses Course, Will Return Coronavirus Data Collection To CDC.
- Administration Bars FDA From Regulating Some Coronavirus Lab Tests.
- Large Clinical Trial Tests Experimental Drug In Nursing Home Residents.
- Evidence Mounts That Children Have Been "Silent Spreaders" Of The Virus.
- Judge Rejects Los Angeles County's Effort To Sanction Church For Violating Restrictions.
- Cassidy Tests Positive For Coronavirus.
- Trump Administration Declares Teachers Essential Workers.
- COVID Cases Reported On College Campuses In 17 States.
- DACA Recipients Sue Over Alleged Job Discrimination.
- DOJ Defends Trump's Suspension Of H-1B Visas.
- Trump To Appeal After Judge Dismisses His Challenge To Manhattan DA's Subpoena.
- Cohen To Appear On "Late Night With Seth Meyers."
- Fauci Undergoes Outpatient Surgery To Remove Vocal Chord Polyp.
- Trump Blasts Universal Mail-In Voting, Says "They Are Trying To Steal This Election."
- Trump: Concerns Over Cutbacks To USPS Were "A Fake By Pelosi And Schumer."
- Trump Says He Will Use Law Enforcement Agencies To Prevent Voter Fraud.
- Trump Asks Supreme Court To Rule On Whether He Can Block People On Twitter.
- McEnany Says Trump Has Not "Looked Into" QAnon Conspiracy.
- White House Reassessing Permit For AK Mine After Appeals From "Influential Republicans."
- California Fires Force Tens Of Thousands To Evacuate.
- Michigan Agrees To Pay \$600M To Flint Water Crisis Victims.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Coronavirus Cases Surge Again In Europe.
- Outbreak At South Korean Church Sets Up Clash Between Religion And Politics.
- South Africa's Coronavirus Response Tainted By Allegations Of Corruption.
- US Demands Reimposition Of Iran Sanctions.
- Iran Unveils New Ballistic, Cruise Missiles.
- Colombian President Claims Maduro Is Trying To Obtain Iranian Missiles.
- Trump Reiterates That "We're Getting Out" Of Iraq.
- Administration Sanctions Six Syrian Military, Government, Financial Officials.
- More Than Six Years Later, ISIS Members Have Not Faced Charges For Crimes Against Yazidis.
- Trump Says If Reports Of Bounties On US Troops Are Proved True, US Will Retaliate.
- In Wake Of Israel Deal, UAE Expects US To Sell F-35s.
- Israel And Germany Hold First Joint Military Exercise On German Soil.
- WPost Analysis: Trump Has Benefited Xi By Taking Focus Away From Domestic Concerns.
- US Using Frozen Funds To Pay Venezuelan Health Workers.
- US Ramps Up Push For Nuclear Arms Agreement With Russia.
- France, Germany Offer Treatment For Russian Opposition Leader After Suspected Poisoning.

Headlines From Today's Front Pages

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON NEWS

- Today's Events In Washington.

Bannon Pleads Not Guilty To Charges Stemming From Fundraising For Private Border Wall.

Axios (8/20, Savitsky, 521K) reports "former Trump administration chief strategist Steve Bannon pleaded not guilty on Thursday after being indicted and taken into custody in New York on federal fraud charges." A federal judge "agreed to release Bannon on a \$5 million bond" after the former Trump aide, "along with three others, allegedly defrauded donors out of hundreds of thousands of dollars for their own profit with a crowdfunding campaign called 'We Build the Wall' that raked in over \$25 million."

All three major network newscasts led with the story last night. NBC Nightly News (8/20, lead story, 3:05, Holt, 5.6M) reported, "Add another big name to the string of former Trump insiders who have run afoul of the law." NBC went on to show its reporter Geoff Bennett telling President Trump, "Respectfully, sir, it's not just Steve Bannon. It's Roger Stone, it's Michael Flynn, it's Rick Gates, Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen. What's it say about your judgment that these are the kind of people that you have?" Trump was shown replying, "Well, I have no idea." On ABC World News Tonight (8/20, lead story, 3:55, Muir, 6.79M), Jonathan Karl also said "this is just the latest in a long list of close Trump associates who have faced criminal charges, including his former personal lawyer, his campaign chairman, his first political adviser, his national security adviser. Many people very close to the President at top echelons facing criminal charges." The CBS Evening News (8/20, lead story, 4:00, O'Donnell, 4.17M) indicated Bannon "was once described as the President's ideological soulmate," and that "he's now the sixth close associate of Mr. Trump to be criminally charged by the President's over Department of Justice."

Along similar lines, the AP (8/20, Neumeister, Long, Colvin) recounts Bannon, who was "pulled from a luxury yacht and arrested," is "the latest in a long list of Trump allies to be charged with a crime." USA Today (8/20, Johnson, 10.31M) reports that since Trump "took office in 2017, seven former advisers who served at the White House or worked in the campaign have been swept up in criminal prosecutions." Likewise, the Los Angeles Times (8/20, Stokols, 4.64M) says "Bannon becomes the seventh prominent Trump associate to be charged with a federal crime."

The Washington Times (8/20, Muñoz, Mordock, 492K) reports "Bannon is a former investment banker who rose to prominence as executive chairman of Breitbart News" and "was appointed chief executive of the Trump campaign in late 2016 before serving as chief White House strategist during the early months of the administration." Bannon "left in August 2017 and fell out with Mr. Trump months later, after a tell-all book by Michael Wolff quoted Mr. Bannon as saying unflattering things about the administration and Mr. Trump's family." The Times adds, "Dubbed 'Sloppy Steve' by the president, Mr. Bannon went on to support conservative populist movements across the globe, notably in Italy."

Politico (8/20, Gerstein, Schreckinger, Cheney, 4.29M) reports "the stunning indictment was returned Monday and unsealed Thursday – four days before the opening of the Republican National Convention – a move likely to provoke the president, who has accused opponents of trying to create distractions around the quadrennial nominating event."

The New York Times (8/20, 18.61M) reports that the indictment charges that "with a wounded Air Force veteran and a Florida venture capitalist, Mr. Bannon conspired to cheat hundreds of thousands of donors by falsely promising that their money had been set aside exclusively toward building a new section of border wall." The Times adds that prosecutors "said that after siphoning money from the project, Mr. Bannon plowed nearly \$1 million into paying off his personal expenses."

The Washington Post (8/20, Zapotosky, Dawsey, Heiderman, 14.2M) reports that "in a news release, prosecutors said Bannon and another organizer, Air Force veteran Brian Kolfage, lied when they claimed they would not take any compensation as part of the campaign, called 'We Build the Wall.'" According the Post, Bannon, "a law enforcement official said, was taken into custody off the coast of Westbrook, Conn., while aboard a 150-foot yacht called the Lady May owned by a friend and business associate, Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui – a vocal, online critic of the Chinese government who was once close with that country's intelligence service but is now wanted by authorities in Beijing on charges of fraud, blackmail and bribery."

Fox News (8/20, Phillips, 27.59M) recounts on its website, "Bannon and the other defendants were each charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering," with each count carrying "a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison." Bloomberg (8/20, Davis, Yaffe-Bellany, 4.73M), the New York Post (8/20, Feuerherd, Lapin, 4.57M), The Hill (8/20, Neidig, 2.98M), McClatchy (8/20, Vockrodt, Shorman, Lowry, 19K), the Daily Caller (8/20, Ross, 716K), the Wall Street Journal (8/20, A1, Ramey, Ballhaus, Findell, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), the CNBC (8/20, Schwartz, 3.62M) website, and Reuters (8/20, Lynch, Sullivan), among other news outlets, have more on Bannon's arrest and the charges against him.

Trump "Feels Badly," Points Out He Had Previously Spoken Out Against Private Wall. Reuters (8/20) reports that the President told reporters that "he felt 'very badly' about the arrest of...Bannon but said he was not in touch with the former campaign aide and knew nothing about the organization involved in the case. ... 'I feel very badly. I haven't been dealing with him for a long period of time,' Trump said when asked about the case." Trump is quoted as saying, "I haven't dealt with him at all now for years, literally years."

During Trump's visit to Pennsylvania Thursday, WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, PA (8/20, 14K) also asked him about Bannon's indictment. Trump said, "We have nothing to do with that. That was a project that was started with a group of people, but I know nothing about it other than I was against it. And as you know, I've spoken out against it previously and I didn't like the idea that they were building and I think that's a government project. We built almost 300 miles of wall." To Politico (8/20, Choi, 4.29M), "Trump distanced himself Thursday from...Bannon's efforts to crowdsource private funds for a border wall," and to The Hill (8/20, Chalfant, 2.98M) he "sought to distance himself from" his disgraced former aide.

Trump Organization Seeks To Distance Trump Jr. From Bannon Project. The Washington Post (8/20, Sonmez, 14.2M) reports the Trump Organization "sought to distance Donald Trump Jr. from Bannon, after reports resurfaced about a speech the president's son gave in New Mexico last year supporting the online crowdfunding campaign We Build the Wall." The Post adds that Trump Jr. "gave a 15-minute speech in support of the project last year." The Post adds that "reporters also pointed out Thursday that We Build the Wall's website featured a testimonial from the president's son praising the group as 'doing some wonderful things for an important issue.'" Trump Organization spokeswoman Amanda Miller said in a statement, "Don gave one speech at a single We Build the Wall event over a year ago with a group of angel moms and besides that, has no involvement with their organization. ... He never gave them permission to use him as a testimonial on their website and was unaware they included him as one until today's media reports about it."

WPost: Actual Government-Built Wall A "Much Bigger Scam." The Washington Post (8/20, 14.2M) editorializes that "the grift alleged is disgusting, if not surprising," and "Bannon's alleged masterminding of the plot, to the extent there was any mastery involved, is particularly repugnant." The Post adds that "if the indictment is correct, this is a scam within a much, much bigger scam," as "we already know that a candidate for president of the United States

orchestrated the same fraud, and continues to orchestrate it, to elevate himself to a high office – from which he can engage in plenty of self-dealing of his own. The only folks who walk away empty-handed? Those donors, and voters, gullible enough to believe that a wall is the answer to anything at all.”

NYTimes Says Bannon's "Scheme" Was "Quintessentially Trumpian." In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, 18.61M) finds “a measure of poetic justice in Thursday’s news that...Bannon...arrested on a yacht on Long Island Sound and charged with defrauding hundreds of thousands of Mr. Trump’s supporters.” To the Times, “the scheme” behind the charges against Bannon “is also quintessentially Trumpian – a faithful copy of the president’s knack for trading on the hopes of disaffected Americans. We Build the Wall, in other words, was basically a Trump tribute band,” and “the plan itself was cribbed directly from Mr. Trump.”

FBI Probing Media Company Deal Linked To Bannon. HuffPost (8/20, Papenfuss, 1.67M) reports, “Steve Bannon’s fraud indictment linked to fundraising for Donald Trump’s U.S.-Mexico border wall isn’t his only legal headache. The Wall Street Journal reports that the FBI and Securities and Exchange Commission are also investigating a \$300 million investment offering for a planned media company tied to Bannon and fugitive Chinese businessman Guo Wengui.” According to HuffPost, “On Wednesday, the Journal had reported that officials were probing the private offering to raise funds for GTV Media Group. Bannon is listed as GTV’s director and Guo as its adviser and fundraiser in a company fundraising document the Journal viewed. Guo, a wanted fugitive in China, has been accused of bribery, fraud and money laundering, all of which he has denied.” Investigators “are examining whether GTV Media or associates of Guo violated securities laws, according to the Journal’s sources.”

PROTESTS

Airman Charged With Trying To Burn Police Car During Utah Protests.

The Air Force Times (8/20, Losey, 165K) reports, “A security forces airman from Hill Air Force Base in Utah has been arrested by federal authorities and accused of burning a police car during a May 30 protest in downtown Salt Lake City.” According to the Times, “Airman 1st Class Larry Raynold Williams Jr., 22, was arrested at his home Wednesday morning by the FBI and members of the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Utah said in a release later that day. He faces a federal arson charge. He was charged with one count of using fire and explosive devices to damage a Salt Lake City Police Department patrol car. That car was flipped and burned by a group of protesters that day. Five people so far, including Williams, have been charged with burning that police car, Justice Department officials said.”

Goodyear Backtracks, Will Allow Employees To Support “Blue Lives Matter.”

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (8/20, Goist, 895K) reports, “Faced with backlash regarding the company’s policy against employees wearing political attire, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. CEO Rich Kramer announced Thursday that employees are now allowed to wear apparel that shows support for law enforcement.” Kramer said in a statement, “Goodyear strongly supports our law enforcement partners and deeply appreciates all they do to put their lives on the line each and every day for our communities. ... We have clarified our policy to make it clear associates can express support for law enforcement through apparel at Goodyear facilities.”

WYTV-TV Youngstown, OH (8/20, 6K) reported “Goodyear is on the offense following President Trump’s call for a company boycott,” and that the company said “employees are allowed to wear clothing supporting law enforcement.” WSYX-TV Columbus, OH (8/20, 57K) noted

Kramer also said in his statement, "To be clear, Goodyear does not endorse any political organization, party or candidate. We have a longstanding corporate policy that asks associations to refrain from workplace expressions in support of any candidate or political party."

Reuters (8/20, Shepardson, Shalal) recalls the President had called for a boycott of the company, and even "told reporters on Wednesday he would swap out the Goodyear tires on his presidential limousine if there were an alternative." Fox Business (8/20, Barrabi, 1.73M) reports on its website that Trump's move came "after a local news station in Kansas shared a slide of a presentation captured by an employee," which "showed a list of acceptable and unacceptable phrases under Goodyear's 'zero-tolerance policy.'" The slide "listed 'Black Lives Matter' and 'LGBT' under acceptable phrases, while the Trump slogan 'Make America Great Again' and the pro-police slogan 'Blue Lives Matter' were listed under unacceptable phrases." The President retweeted a picture of the slide.

Ahead of the company's reversal, the Akron (OH) Beacon Journal (8/20, Ashworth, 198K) reports, "a rally for 'Good Jobs at Goodyear' started at 11 a.m. Thursday at United Steelworkers Local 2 at 501 Kelly Avenue," organized "in response to...Trump's tweet urging a boycott." Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan (D) "called the president's remarks an "attack" on the city of Akron," and "called on voters to vote Trump out of office." Said Horrigan, "He will soon be just a smudge stain on that great office."

Miller: Time For Americans To "Stand Up" And "Not Be Bullied" By "Radical Left." In an interview with Maria Bartiromo for Fox Business' Mornings With Maria (8/20), White House adviser Stephen Miller said, "It's time for traditional Americans stand up for values stand up for beliefs, not be bullied anymore by the radical left. I mean do you really want to live in a country where, if you speak your mind, you get kicked out of college, you kicked out of job, you get exiled from your career – just because you expressed a traditional thought, a conservative thought, a thought that used to be considered perfectly acceptable even a few years ago? This notion you can go to workplace in America and express support for a radical Marxist movements, support for an anti-police movement, but you can't express support for Donald Trump? Or the police or law enforcement? The left is trying to create a two-tiered system of free speech in this country."

Vice President Pence's Chief of Staff Marc Short, meanwhile, said on CNBC's Closing Bell (8/20, 289K) that Trump "expressed concerns" over Goodyear Tires "that are First Amendment concerns, that when a company has policies that say you're allowed to wear one kind of attire, but if you're expressing your First Amendment rights, you can't have a Blue Lives Matter T-shirt. I think that's concerning to a lot of people and I think you've seen Goodyear's expressed a change in policy this afternoon, so I think that that's a step forward." Short added that the President "continued to advocate for American-made products" and "there's plenty of options for tire manufacturers, but we hope that Goodyear continues to alter its policy in a way that includes protections of the First Amendment."

Trump: Biden-Harris Want To Abolish Police.

President Trump said on Fox News' Hannity (8/20, 535K) that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are "not talking about law enforcement and our great police. ... They don't want to talk about police because it's a losing subject for them. They want to defund the police. They want to abolish the police. ... The Democrat run cities, they are a disaster."

Trump Says Suburban Women Like His Law And Order Stance.

President Trump said on Fox News' Hannity (8/20, 535K) that suburban women "really want to support me because we are for law and order. We are for safety and security and Biden is not."

Bernhardt Touts Effort To Protect Monuments, Tell "America's Story."

Interior Secretary Bernhardt said on WIND-AM ③ Chicago (8/20, 8K), "We have a very exciting experience today designating the 1908 Springfield race riot archaeological site as part of the African American Civil Rights Network," adding "at this time, almost more than any other time, educating people on facts and telling factual stories and showing how far we've come is incredibly important in the context of all the craziness." Asked about destruction of public monuments during national protests, Bernhardt said the President has "set up a task force that I'm in charge of that did several things. It said, number one, let's protect the monuments; number two, let's work to tell America's story."

Rioters Assault Officers During Attack On Federal Building in Portland.

The Washington Post (8/20, Shepherd, 14.2M) reports that "several hundred protesters rallied around a federal building" that houses ICE offices in Portland on Wednesday night "and were met by local and federal police." The Post adds, "After some demonstrators broke windows at the facility, police eventually deployed tear gas to end the 84th consecutive night of protests in the city." According to the Post, "Early in the night on Wednesday, federal officers used pepper balls to push the crowd away from the federal building and moved the group down the street before retreating. Protesters then returned to the ICE building."

The AP (8/20) reports that rioters "spray painted windows on the building, broke several windows and shined laser lights at agents inside." The AP adds, "Clashes ensued, with protesters hurling rocks and bottles at agents who came out of the building and at police. ... Police arrested two people and several officers suffered minor injuries after they were hit with rocks, the Portland police statement said."

Chicago Mayor Defends Increased Police Presence Near Home.

The Chicago Sun-Times (8/20, Spielman, 875K) reports Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (D) on Thursday "defended the heavy police presence outside her Logan Square home, at a time when police officers are stretched to the limit, citing 'specific threats' made 'every single day' to 'my person, my wife and my home.'" Images "circulating online show dozens of officers guarding her home and her block with barricades in fortress-like fashion." Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown supported the mayor, saying, "These people embedded in these protests have shown us they're violent. They're violent in our downtown. They're violent in our neighborhoods. And they're violent at the mayor's house. We're sworn to protect people from violence and we're gonna do our job."

Security Footage Captures Retired NYPD Sergeant Being Beaten On The Ground.

The New York Post (8/20, Moore, Barone, 4.57M) reports, "A retired NYPD sergeant was punched and kicked as he lay helplessly on the ground in a brutal Manhattan beatdown caught on security footage, police sources told The Post." The former sergeant "can be seen speaking with his assailant for at least a minute last Tuesday morning as they stand outside a Garment District deli," after which "the suspect, whom police sources have identified as Masterjadin Roman, 20, then allegedly throws a bottle at the retired officer." The man rushes at Roman, "who manages to wrestle the NYPD veteran to the ground and land more than a dozen punches to his head."

Over 323K Accusations Of NYPD Misconduct Published Online. The New York Times (8/20, Southall, 18.61M) reports, "Over 323,000 accusations of misconduct against current and former New York City police officers were published online on Thursday, a major milestone in a

long and contentious political battle to open records of police discipline to public scrutiny." The records were "published in an online database by the New York Civil Liberties Union, which obtained the records from the review board after state lawmakers repealed a law that had kept them secret." The organization "noted that less than three percent of the 323,911 complaints resulted in a penalty for officers, 12 of whom had been terminated," and "in a statement, Christopher Dunn, the organization's legal director, said the records showed that the Police Department, whose commissioner makes the final decision on disciplinary matters, 'is unwilling to police itself.'"

Police, Protesters Clash Outside Pittsburgh Mayor's Home.

The Washington Post (8/20, Wolfrom, Berman, 14.2M) reports, "Protesters clashed with police for the second consecutive night outside the Pittsburgh mayor's home on Wednesday, resulting in one arrest and escalating tensions." The protests began "over the weekend when several plainclothes officers arrested 25-year-old protester Matthew Cartier and drove away in an unmarked van during Saturday's demonstration downtown." Mayor Bill Peduto (D) has "since denounced the police tactics deployed in Cartier's arrest," but a tweet "about the limitations of protesters' constitutional rights" has "sparked outrage and galvanized protesters to swarm his Point Breeze home for the past two nights, making Peduto the latest in a growing list of mayors and other public figures to see demonstrators gather at their residences during this summer of unrest – bringing the movement essentially to their front doors."

OPERATION LEGEND

Federal Drug And Gun Charges Filed Against 11 During Operation Legend In Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Hughes, 632K) reports, "After arresting more than 30 suspects in Milwaukee as a part of Operation Legend, federal investigators have filed federal gun and drug charges against 11 individuals. The article says the DEA is part of the operation. TIME (8/20, Hennigan, 18.47M) publishes a related article.

Barr Visits Cleveland To Tout Operation LeGend.

WKYC-TV Cleveland (8/20, 223K) reports from Cleveland, "New numbers show 32 people in Cleveland have been charged with federal crimes under 'Operation Legend.' The program combines federal investigators working alongside state and local law enforcement to get criminals off the street." Attorney General Barr "was in town on Thursday to tout the program where federal investigators work alongside state and local law enforcement to get criminals off the street. Barr says this crackdown has nothing to do with politics or the social unrest in May. 'The primary purpose of government is to provide safety and the social justice issues and other things that people have could never take root or achieve anything if the streets are running in blood,' Barr told 3News' Tiffany Tarpley." US Attorney Justin Herdman "says of the 32 people that have been charged with federal crimes since the initiative began in Cleveland, 22 are accused of drug trafficking, nine of various firearms offenses, and another of carjacking."

FBI Seeks Information On July Kansas City Homicide.

KMBC-TV Kansas City, MO (8/20, 205K) reports from Kansas City, Missouri, "The FBI is seeking information in connection with a July 26 homicide in Kansas City, Missouri, and an additional reward is on the table." The FBI "is seeking information in connection with the July 26 murder of 30-year-old Shawn Ricks on the 3400 block of Indiana Avenue. Ricks was one of two people

murdered in the early hours of July 26. Officers were called to 34th Street and Indiana Avenue just before 1:40 a.m. to investigate reports of a shooting. Ricks was found shot in the abdomen on the sidewalk. He was pronounced dead on the scene." The FBI "is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in this homicide, this is in addition to the \$25,000 offered by Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers."

WDAF-TV Kansas City, MO (8/20, Dulle, 242K) reports, "The FBI is continuing to work with local law enforcement to identify violent offenders within Kansas City as part of Operation LeGend and are relying on people in the community to come forward with information needed to bring those responsible for the death of Shawn Ricks to justice." KSHB-TV Kansas City, MO (8/20, Godburn, 90K) and WDAF-TV Kansas City, MO (8/20, McDowell, 242K) also report on their websites.

Trump Says Operation Legend Shows He Stands For "Safety And Security."

On Twitter, President Trump on Thursday declared, "I STAND FOR LAW AND ORDER AND I TOOK ACTION! Operation LeGend has led to the arrest of over 1,000 criminals, including 90 killers, all while Sleepy Joe Biden and the Radical Left excuses violence and crime in their Democrat-run cities. I want safety & security, Joe allows CRIME!"

COUNTER-TERRORISM

Barr: DOJ Will Appeal Ruling, Seek Death Penalty For Tsarnaev.

The AP (8/20, Balsamo, Richer) reports, "The Justice Department will seek to reinstate a death penalty for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the man who was convicted of carrying out the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, Attorney General William Barr said Thursday." The AP adds, "In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said the Justice Department would appeal the court's ruling last month that tossed Tsarnaev's death sentence and ordered a trial to determine whether he should be executed for the attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260 others. Barr said the Justice Department would take the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court. 'We will do whatever's necessary,' Barr said. 'We will take it up to the Supreme Court and we will continue to pursue the death penalty.'"

The Boston Herald (8/20, Cotter, 410K) reports that Barr said the department "will appeal the appeals court's ruling last month that threw out the death sentence for Tsarnaev and sent the case back to lower court for resentencing. The court at the time affirmed Tsarnaev's guilty convictions, so he will spend the rest of his life behind bars no matter what." The Herald adds, "In July U.S. Appeals Court of the First Circuit Judge Rogeriee Thompson vacated Tsarnaev's death penalty, saying the convicted bomber will have to face another jury to determine whether he'll ultimately be put to death."

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Dunleavy, 448K) reports that Judge Thompson "said in her ruling that Tsarnaev's trial 'did not meet the standard' of fairness guaranteed by the Constitution. She said Tsarnaev's new trial with a new jury will be 'strictly limited to what penalty Dzhokhar should get on the death-eligible counts.' Thompson said that the lower-court trial judge erred during the voir dire process under which possible jurors are questioned to ensure they can be impartial."

Reuters (8/20, Raymond) reports, "U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling in Boston said that after considering victims' views, the department had decided to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review an appellate court's July 31 decision to order a new death penalty phase trial for Tsarnaev. 'Our hope is that this will result in reinstatement of the original sentence and avoid a retrial of the

death penalty phase,' Lelling said in a statement." Reuters notes, "Victims have been divided over seeking the death penalty, and David Patton, Tsarnaev's lawyer, had argued prosecutors should allow 'closure' by permitting a life prison sentence."

FBI Probing Bomb Threat At U Of Nebraska At Kearney.

The Kearney (NE) Hub (8/20, Schmidt, 80K) reports from Kearney, Nebraska, "Activities kicking off the new school year at the University of Nebraska at Kearney aren't being affected following a bomb threat this morning." The Hub adds, "Around 10 a.m. the UNK main switchboard received a phone call from a digitized voice indicating suspicious packages were being delivered to campus. Todd Gottula, a UNK spokesperson, said the caller didn't identify specific locations. UNK's threat was one of several made to college campuses across the country, including institutions in the Big Ten Conference and Penn State University. UNK administrators worked with UNK Police, Kearney Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol and FBI, and based on similar situations across the country, determined the threat was not credible. UNK Police and KPD did a sweep of the Kearney campus and ensured it was safe."

Berlin Security Services Say Attacker "Was Not On The Radar."

The AP (8/20) reports German authorities "said Thursday that a 30-year-old man accused of deliberately driving his car into other vehicles along a major Berlin highway wasn't previously on the security services' radar." The Iraqi citizen crashed "into a car, two motorcycles and a motor scooter on Tuesday night before he stopped his vehicle and eventually detained." He has been charged "with at least three counts of attempted murder and moved to a psychiatric jail." A spokesman for the German senate of the interior said, "He was not on the radar," according to the German news agency dpa. While intelligence services in Berlin "weren't aware of the man, he was known to police for assault and resisting officers." Berlin prosecutors "said Wednesday that the suspect, who was born in Baghdad in 1990 and came to Germany as an asylum-seeker several years ago, may have been motivated by Islamist ideology." Authorities said "a religiously motivated background cannot be excluded" as a motive "for his actions, but there were also indications the man suffered from psychological problems."

Manchester Concert Bomber's Brother Sentenced To 55 Years In Prison.

The AP (8/20, Hui) reports Hashem Abedi, the brother of Salman Abedi, "the suicide bomber who set off an explosion at a 2017 Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, killing 22 people and injuring hundreds, was sentenced Thursday to a minimum of 55 years in prison." Abedi "had denied helping plan the attack at Manchester Arena but was found guilty of murder, attempted murder, and conspiring to cause explosions. His sentencing had been postponed due to travel restrictions during the coronavirus pandemic."

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Johnson Subpoenas Former State Department Official Linked To Steele Dossier.

The Hill (8/20, Carney, 2.98M) cites "a source" who confirmed that Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson has subpoenaed former State Department official Jonathan Winer, who is "linked to the controversial research dossier about then-presidential candidate Donald Trump." Winer "is the first person to be subpoenaed by Johnson as part of a broad investigation spanning the transition between the Obama and Trump administrations including digging into the so-called Steele dossier."

WTimes Provides Examples Of Obama Administration Spying Before And After 2016 Election.

Citing "government documents," the Washington Times (8/20, Scarborough, 492K) lists "six instances of Obama administration spying during and after the Nov. 8 election."

Hannity: Evidence Of FBI's "Premeditated Fraud" Is "Overwhelming."

Fox News (8/20, Halon, 27.59M) host Sean Hannity said on "Special Report" Thursday that the evidence of surveillance abuses by the DOJ and FBI during investigation into the 2016 Trump campaign is "overwhelming." Hannity alleged "that the 'premeditated fraud' began with the notorious Steele dossier – which was pivotal to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) warrants the bureau obtained for former Trump aide Carter Page as part of the Russia investigation."

Former CIA Officer Accused Of Spying For China Called "Extreme Flight Risk."

The AP (8/20, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu a former CIA officer and FBI contract linguist "accused of giving China classified information must remain detained because the trained spy is an 'extreme flight risk,' US prosecutors said." Alexander Yuk Ching Ma was "scheduled for a detention hearing Thursday," but a federal defender "asked for a postponement, saying an arranged phone call with his client from the Honolulu Federal Detention Center didn't happen as planned Wednesday." Assistant Federal Defender Craig Jerome "said he was only able to speak to Ma for about 10 minutes Thursday, which wasn't enough time to go over the allegations and prepare for a detention hearing." The hearing was rescheduled for next week.

Human Rights Group Files FOIA For DNI Khashoggi Report.

Law360 (8/20, Subscription Publication, 8K) reports a human rights organization "founded by billionaire philanthropist George Soros filed a lawsuit against the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Wednesday, accusing the government of withholding evidence in the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi despite Congress' repeated calls for transparency." The Open Society Justice Initiative "submitted a Freedom of Information Act complaint to a New York federal court claiming the government had failed to issue a determination on its latest records request for information on the Washington Post columnist's death within 20 days as required by law."

Partner Of Julian Assange Launches Crowdfunding Campaign To Fight Extradition.

The Daily Mail (UK) (8/20, Andrews, 5.27M) reports Stella Morris, the partner of Julian Assange, "has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise more than £500,000 to fight against the US government's bid to extradite him." Morris called it a "David vs Goliath" legal case with "unthinkable" stakes, arguing the Trump Administration is "targeting" Assange. The case's "spiralling legal costs have already reached more than £500,000, leaving the campaign team with the aim 'to raise as much as possible' through donations."

IC's "Hands Are Tied" To Stop Electoral Misinformation Shared By Trump.

CNN International (8/20, Marquardt) reports Monday night, Twitter "suspended a user's account after it posted what the US intelligence community had just cited as a specific example of Russia's efforts to 'denigrate' Joe Biden" but which was retweeted by President Trump. CNN says Trump was "turbocharging the very tactic his own intelligence community just nine days prior had called a measure used by a suspected Russia-backed actor 'to undermine former Vice President Biden's

candidacy and the Democratic Party.” The outlet notes that “none of the federal agencies charged with protecting the November election – the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, among others – are empowered or seem able to deal with one of the most serious election issues they grapple with daily when it’s coming from the White House.” Intelligence officials “argue it’s not their remit” and that “by definition they’re focused on overseas threats, even when the President is amplifying them.” The ODNI declined to comment.

ODNI, FBI, NCSC Launch Protected Voices Initiative To Harden Campaigns Against Interference Efforts.

New Jersey Globe (8/20, Biryukov) reports the US has launched a “series of tools meant to help campaigns protect against foreign digital election interference and cybersecurity threats Thursday.” The Protected Voices initiative “advises campaigns on how to boost their digital security.” The initiative, launched “jointly by the FBI, The National Counterintelligence and Security Center and the Director of National Intelligence’s office, follows widespread foreign interference in the 2016 presidential election.” It recommends campaign workers “use long passwords and two-factor authentication and urges campaigns use encrypted means of communications and limit staffers’ access to parts of internal networks they don’t need.” FBI Director Chris Wray said, “America’s elections are the foundation of our Democracy, so protecting them is a priority for the FBI and our partners. Unfortunately, we face today a very real threat from foes who seek to undermine our elections through online foreign influence operations. That’s why the FBI has launched our protected voices initiative.”

Evanina Warns Of Post-Election Day Uncertainty.

AFP (8/20, McNamee) reports National Counterintelligence and Security Center Director William Evanina “said that external actors could use hacks like ransomware and other cyberattacks against the infrastructure for delivering, counting and transmitting the votes, which includes the overburdened and understaffed post office and polling stations.” Speaking in a virtual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Evanina “warned that an expected surge in by-mail voting could very well leave the result of the contest between President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden, as well as numerous congressional contests, unresolved the day after the election.” Evanina added, “We are in for a rocky 70-plus days coming up,” and “need to prepare as a nation that the election will not be decided on November 3.” Evanina also “said he remains on guard for foreign interference during the campaign, especially from China, Russia and Iran.”

IC Warns 5G Technologies Subject Critical Systems To Greater Cyber Threats.

Federal News Network (8/20, Heckman, 220) reports while 5G technology could have “major implications for the economy, intelligence and cybersecurity agency officials warn that moving more core functions to the edge of networks could create a larger attack surface for adversaries and introduce more vulnerabilities into agency systems, the defense industrial base and national critical infrastructure.” National Counterintelligence and Security Center Deputy Director Constance Taube “said the intelligence community has seen a rise in ‘blended operations’ that combine supply-chain vulnerabilities with insider threats and other cyber threats.” As the intelligence community “reassesses the scope of emerging threats, Taube said supply chain vulnerabilities for critical infrastructure industries – including telecommunications, banking and energy – carry the highest level of risk and require a commensurate level of protection.” In response to that threat, Taube “said NCSC is in the process of ‘working out a repeatable process’

that will streamline how the federal government shares cyber threat information with industry partners."

Bellingcat: CNN Team Surveilled By Russian Operatives In Central African Republic.

CNN (8/20, Lister, Ward, Shukla, 83.16M) reports a new investigation "has found evidence that CNN journalists in the Central African Republic (CAR) last year were subject to constant surveillance by a team of Russian operatives." Bellingcat has concluded that "when a CNN team landed in the capital Bangui in May 2019 to investigate Kremlin-linked operations in the country, 'plans had already been put in motion for their surveillance, intimidation, and ultimately attempted discrediting.'" CNN writes that according to Bellingcat, the operation "was run by a company based in St. Petersburg called Convoy Military Security, which is directed by a man called Colonel Konstantin Pikaiov." Bellingcat "says Pikaiov was the liaison between Russia's Ministry of Defense and Prigozhin's political, media, and mining operations in Africa." At least some of "the Russian surveillance of CNN's team ended up in a slickly produced video released in August 2019 by RIA/FAN." The video included "claims that the CNN team was linked to US and UK intelligence services and included multiple examples of the video and photo surveillance of the CNN team."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Indictment Details Ruthless Rise Of New Gang In DC Suburbs.

The Washington Post (8/20, Jouvenal, Weiner, 14.2M) reports on "a sweeping federal indictment brought Thursday" against "the Reccless Tigers, a gang that was unknown a decade ago but has metastasized into a potent criminal organization that reaches from Southern California to Northern Virginia." According to the Post, "Three have been charged with murder in connection with kidnapping and drug trafficking, among a group of seven charged Thursday with racketeering and other crimes. In all, nearly 30 associates have been charged federally in recent months in a sprawling years-long investigation that is among the largest gang probes in the D.C. area in recent years." David Nguyen "and several others pleaded guilty earlier this year to their involvement in the gang activity." The Post adds, "The Reccless Tigers cultivated a flashy image, splashed across Instagram and Twitter." An FBI agent "testified at a previous hearing that higher-level members wore robes from their preferred designer, Versace."

Maryland Man Pleads Guilty To Kidnapping In Tool Purchase Scheme.

The Baltimore Sun (8/20, Holland, 1.33M) reports, "A Baltimore man admitted in federal court his role in robbing and carjacking victims who thought he was meeting them to buy items they were selling using a telephone application, federal prosecutors said Thursday." Michael Wedington, Jr. 19, "pleaded guilty to kidnapping in connection with two armed carjackings in June, 2019. According to his indictment and guilty plea, Wedington twice offered to buy tools being sold through the 'OfferUp' application, which prosecutors said connects 'local buyers and sellers of various products.' 'When the victims arrived at the designated meeting spot, they were then directed to a second location, where the victims were robbed at gunpoint by Wedington and others, who also stole their vehicles,' the U.S. Attorney's office said in a press release."

Continuing Coverage: FBI Investigating Disappearance Of Georgia Woman.

The Miami Herald (8/20, 1.09M) reports that the FBI is continuing its investigation into the disappearance of Leila Cavett, whose son "was found wandering alone in Miramar July 26." The agency has "offered a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading" to her recovery.

The AP (8/20) reports FBI Miami Special Agent in Charge George L. Piro said Thursday, "We are still relentlessly investigating the circumstances surrounding her disappearance." He added, "Any information, no matter how seemingly insignificant, may be important to finding Leila." She "was last seen on the night of July 25."

WSB-TV Atlanta (8/20, 105K) reports that the FBI "released video of Cavett's Chevrolet pickup truck pulling into a RaceTrac gas station in Hollywood, Florida on July 25 around 2:20 p.m." The video "shows her exiting a Lexus an hour later around 3:06 p.m."

WFOR-TV Miami (8/20) reports Shanon Ryan is now a suspect in Cavett's disappearance after he "posted a nearly hour-long video on his Facebook page claiming to know Cavett and to have been the last person to see her."

Also reporting are WPLG-TV Miami (FL) Miami (8/20, Finnie, 223K), WTVJ-TV Miami (FL) Miami (8/20, 142K), and WPLG-TV Miami (FL) Miami (8/20, Batchelor, 223K).

FBI Investigating Bank Robbery In Illinois.

The Glenview (IL) Announcements (8/20, Edquist, 1.73M) reports that the FBI announced Thursday its active investigation into the robbery of the TCF Bank in Glenview, Illinois. The first suspect "is described as a white man around 18-20 years of age, with dark, curly hair," and the second suspect "is described as an Asian man around the same age, weight and height."

The Glenview (IL) Patch (8/20, 1.03M) reports that no weapons "were observed or implied and no one was injured."

Missouri Sex Offender Charged With Murdering Child.

Fox News (8/20, Chakraborty, 27.59M) reports Missouri sex offender Earl Webster Cox "has been charged with first-degree murder for the death of 9-year-old Angie Housman in 1993." New advancements in science allowed police to use DNA "extracted from a scrap of her underwear the size of a pea to link her death to Cox."

Pennsylvania Man Sentenced For Lying To FBI.

The Erie (PA) Times-News (8/20, 33K) reports Jamie Gilmore "was sentenced to four months in federal prison on Thursday immediately after he pleaded guilty to lying to an FBI agent about the whereabouts of another man charged with fatally shooting a shift manager at a Washington Township Wendy's in January." He "has been in prison since the FBI charged him in January," and he "was also ordered to serve a year of supervised release."

Wanted New Mexico Man Surrenders To Police.

KFOX-TV El Paso, TX (8/20, Cross) reports Manuel Chavira "was arrested at the Mesilla Valley Mall by the Las Cruces Police Department after he called to turn himself in" on Thursday. He "is expected to be transferred into federal custody, according to the FBI, on suspicion of carjacking and discharging a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence."

South Carolina Man Charged With Sex Trafficking.

WCIV-TV Charleston, SC (8/20, Cannon, 145K) reports Brian Leroy Watson, Jr "has been charged with nine counts of human trafficking and attempted human trafficking, and three counts of narcotics violations." He "was arrested on August 20 after a collaborative efforts from the FBI, the Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSO), and the Kershaw County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)."

WLTX-TV Columbia, SC (8/20, 87K) reports that the indictment "alleges human trafficking violations against Watson as to multiple victims between 2016 and 2019." The indictment also

"charges Watson with distributing heroin and fentanyl, and with unlawfully operating a Blythewood dwelling for the purpose of storing and distributing heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine."

Continuing Coverage: Pennsylvania Police Announces Recovery Of Missing Girl.

WPMT-TV Harrisburg, PA (8/20, 93K) reports that the Lower Paxton Township Police announced Thursday the successful recovery of Destiny Snyder, who "was missing since Saturday." The FBI supported the investigation.

FBI Provides Update To Remains Found In Kentucky.

WTVQ-TV Lexington, KY (8/20) reports that the FBI announced Thursday new details about the human remains "found in Nelson County nearly one month ago." The FBI "said it is still waiting for DNA analysis to positively identify the person," but the initial analysis said that the remains "likely belong to a female estimated between 24 and 82 years old, and between 62.6 and 70.9 inches tall." The FBI took over the Crystal Rogers disappearance investigation after the remains were discovered.

Continuing Coverage: Kidnapping Suspect Returned To Louisiana.

The Beauregard (LA) Daily News (8/20, 11K) reports that a suspect in the Jimmie Box murder investigation, who is only identified as "Ford," has "been returned to Beauregard Parish on Tuesday August 18." The suspect "faces one count of criminal conspiracy to commit aggravated assault with a firearm." The FBI is supporting the investigation.

Former Tennessee Police Officer Sentenced For Rapes.

The AP (8/20) reports former Chattanooga police officer Desmond Ladon Logan, who "admitted to sexually assaulting three women in his custody and using a stun gun on another victim," has "been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison." The FBI "began investigating Logan in June 2018."

Texas Public Official Sentenced For Bribery.

The Laredo (TX) Morning Times (8/20, 115K) reports former Webb County Commissioner Jaime Canales "was sentenced to 15 months in prison after pleading guilty two years ago to conspiracy to commit federal bribery." U.S. Attorney Carolyn Ferko "asked the judge to sentence Canales to 25 months in prison" and Ferko "noted that he worked with the government and was willing to testify against other officials in the area, although no other cases came of that."

KGNS-TV Laredo, TX (8/20) reports that the sentencing "took place Thursday afternoon in a federal courthouse in Houston."

Colorado Grand Jury Indicts Illegal Masseurs.

Sentinel Colorado (8/20) reports that a Denver grand jury "indicted seven people and a dozen businesses for allegedly operating a complex human trafficking ring out of Denver massage businesses that had ties to Aurora." The grand jury "handed down a total of 33 felony counts to the defendants who prosecutors said trafficked woman from China to engage in sex acts in massage entities across" Aurora. The investigation "began in early 2019 after Aurora's manager of tax and licensing, Trevor Vaughn, alerted Denver officials that massage businesses recently kicked out of Aurora for engaging in possibly lascivious activities were likely also operating in Denver."

Wisconsin Police Investigating Bank Robbery.

The Wisconsin State Journal (8/20, Richgels, 372K) reports that the Madison Police Department is "seeking a man who robbed a West Side bank on Wednesday afternoon." The suspect "was described as Hispanic, 20 to 35 years old, 5-foot-6 to 5-foot-8, with a medium to heavy build."

Georgia Man Pleads Not Guilty To Cock-Fighting Allegations.

The Augusta (GA) Chronicle (8/20, Hodson, 167K) reports Lanier A. Hightower, who "is the first of 38 defendants named in a federal indictment of people federal investigators contend attended an animal fighting enterprise on Dec. 14," entered his not guilty plea on Thursday. The indictment "was unsealed this summer in U.S. District Court in Augusta, the same day another indictment against 178 others who allegedly participated in cock-fighting in Midville was also unsealed in U.S. District Court in Statesboro." The operations, which were called Operations Sunrise, "involved agents from the FBI, U.S. Marshal, Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, Homeland Security as well as the Georgia State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Corrections, and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety."

California Security Guard Stops Bank Robbery.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (8/20, 755K) reports that an unidentified California security guard "stopped a would-be bank robber from making off in Rolando Village on Thursday." The attempted robbery "was reported about 11:10 a.m. at a U.S. bank in a Vons on El Cajon Boulevard near College Avenue, where authorities said a woman used a note to demand cash."

Texas Men Facing Charges Over Illegal Gambling.

The Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times (8/20, 153K) reports Nathan Nichols, Richard Nunez, Richard Conlon, and Douglas Wells "were indicted for federal charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering and four counts of operating an illegal gambling business." The men "are suspected of operating and managing an illegal gambling business in Corpus Christi from March 13, 2018 o Aug. 1, 2019." Federal agents "seized several million dollars, gold bars and several vehicles, including a Lamborghini" as part of the investigation.

Illinois Judge Frees Gang Member Over Insufficient Evidence.

WLS-TV Chicago (8/20, 391K) reports Black Disciple street gang member Shongo Collier, who "had been charged with supplying heroin and fentanyl to gang dealers," has "been released from custody after a federal judge dismissed the case against him." U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Young Kim "found insufficient evidence to charge Collier with federal drug crimes or continue to hold him."

Wanted Hawaii Man Arrested In California.

The San Bernardino (CA) Sun (8/20, 129K) reports Kameron Lawhead, who is "wanted on drug charges in Hawaii," was "arrested in Corona on Thursday, Aug. 20, after a standoff in a busy shopping center parking lot." The FBI "was asked by authorities in Kauai to arrest Lawhead."

Iowa Resident Facing Drug Charges.

An online WKVI-FM Knox, IN (8/20) report says Iowa resident Marques J. Wright has been arrested and "accused of dealing cocaine and marijuana." Wright's arrest occurred after a "sheriff's deputy who...was working the Domestic Highway Enforcement program" stopped a car that Wright was driving in LaPorte County, Indiana. The program is one that was "put in place as

part of LaPorte County's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area designation." The Times of Northwest Indiana (8/20, Kasarda, 254K) publishes a similar article.

Operation In Utah Leads To Drug Seizures, Nearly 70 Arrests.

CDL Life News (8/20, 18K) reports, "Authorities in Utah seized hundreds of pounds of drugs and" arrested 69 people during a recent operation in that state. The three-day operation, conducted earlier this month, "is part of a larger federally funded drug enforcement detail called the Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program."

FBI Involved With Investigation That Led To Seizure Of More Than 3,000 Pounds Of Meth.

The Santa Maria (CA) Times (8/20, Minsky, 39K) reports the FBI participated in an investigation that led to 33 arrests and the seizure of "more than 3,100 pounds of methamphetamine." The seizure, which occurred on Wednesday, was the "largest drug bust in Santa Barbara County history." The Santa Barbara (CA) News-Press (8/20) also covers this story.

Meth Case Defendant Sentenced To 14 Years In Prison.

In online coverage, WBBJ-TV Jackson, TN (8/20) reports Tennessee resident Brandi Oswalt "has been sentenced to 14 years in federal prison for her role in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute over 156 grams of methamphetamine." The Oswalt case "was investigated by the FBI and the Lexington Police Department." The Jackson (TN) Sun (8/20, 55K) publishes a similar article.

Florida Resident Gets Five-Year Prison Sentence After Pleading Guilty To Drug Charge.

On its website, WTOG-TV Tampa, FL (8/20) reports Florida resident Antonio Chandler was sentenced "to five years in federal prison for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine." The sentence comes after Chandler "pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy." The WTOG article says the FBI was involved with the investigation of this case.

Indictment Charges Three With Murder In Connection With Kidnapping, Drug Trafficking.

In front-page coverage, the Washington Post (8/20, A1, Jouvenal, Weiner, 14.2M) reports a new federal indictment charges seven alleged members of the Reckless Tigers gang "with racketeering and other crimes." Three of those named in the indictment "have been charged with murder in connection with kidnapping and drug trafficking."

FINANCIAL CRIME & CORPORATE SCANDALS

Four Arrested In Vietnam For Coronavirus PPE Scam Targeting US Buyers.

Reuters (8/20) reports, "Vietnamese police have arrested four men accused of defrauding more than 5,000 Americans trying to buy COVID-19 protective equipment online out of nearly \$1 million, the Ministry of Public Security said on Thursday. The arrests of the four, aged between 22 and 36, were made following a joint investigation by the ministry and U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the ministry said in a statement on its website." Reuters adds, "In March, the four began operating 110 websites that offered personal protection equipment (PPE), including hand sanitizers, masks and disinfectant wipes, and received money from the Americans via their Paypal accounts, the ministry said. The four never

had the products offered on the websites and their victims never received what they paid for, the ministry said."

Attorneys For Indicted Chicago Alderman Claim Investigators Bungled Wiretaps.

The Chicago Tribune (8/20, Meisner, 2.65M) reports, "Lawyers for indicted Chicago Ald. Edward Burke alleged in a court filing Thursday that federal investigators bungled the wiretap of Burke's phones and improperly tried to set him up in a scheme involving the old main post office that forms the backbone of the corruption case." According to the Tribune, "The allegations came in a motion to suppress the evidence gleaned from the wiretaps on Burke's cellphone and City Hall offices, which allowed the FBI to monitor thousands of conversations the alderman made and received over the course of nearly a year. The 71-page motion accuses prosecutors of directing then-Ald. Daniel Solis to have 'scripted interactions' with Burke and lie about the post office deal in an effort to curry favor with the government. At the time, Solis had been recorded 'committing a number of different crimes,' the motion stated."

WLS-TV Chicago (8/21, Horng, 391K) reports, "At the heart of government's case are recordings of wiretapped phone calls that prosecutors say implicate Burke, but his attorneys now argue those recordings should be thrown out. Attorneys for Chicago Alderman Ed Burke say he was lied to and deceived by retired Alderman Danny Solis in an investigation that resulted in charges of racketeering, bribery, attempted extortion and other corruption. In court filings Thursday, Burke's lawyers say Solis, who is a cooperating witness for the prosecution, was 'desperate to curry favor with the Government' because of his own legal troubles." Solis "agreed to record conversations with Burke starting in 2016. The defense says prosecutors improperly guided Solis through 'carefully scripted interactions' with Burke 'to try to develop evidence demonstrating probable cause.' 'It gets to the point of, is it entrapment? In other words, but for the cooperating witness perhaps encouraging, egging on...would that subject have committed the crime in the first instance?' said former federal prosecutor Jeff Cramer." Law360 (8/20, Subscription Publication, 8K) also reports behind a paywall.

Rep. Chabot Claims Exoneration In FBI Probe.

WKRC-TV Cincinnati (8/20, Pilcher, 161K) reports from Cincinnati, "The campaign of U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot now claims that the Federal Bureau of Investigation exonerated the campaign as well as the veteran congressman from any wrongdoing in the ongoing investigation into possible embezzlement by a former campaign official." According to WKRC-TV, "The letter, dated July 21, states that the investigation 'determined that Steve Chabot for Congress is a victim of the violation of law' and that property seized in the probe 'is traceable to proceeds of fraud committed by James Schwartz, Jr.' Schwartz (also known as Jamie Schwartz) is Chabot's former campaign manager who is under investigation for at least \$123,000 that went missing from Chabot's campaign." The investigation "started in August 2019, when the Federal Election Commission noticed the missing funds. A federal grand jury launched its own criminal investigation soon after, although charges have yet to be filed."

Ohio Nonprofit Pleads Not Guilty In Bribery Probe.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer (8/20, Caniglia, 895K) reports, "A nonprofit that stashed tens of millions of dollars aimed at passing House Bill 6 – the focus of a massive federal bribery investigation – was summoned to court Thursday. An attorney entered a not guilty plea on behalf of Generation Now before Magistrate Judge Karen Litkovitz in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati." According to the Plain Dealer, "The nonprofit was indicted last month with former Ohio House

Speaker Larry Householder and four allies on racketeering charges involving House Bill 6, the \$1.3 billion bailout involving a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. Generation Now had been summoned for an arraignment hearing earlier this month, but no attorney appeared on its behalf. On Thursday, Robert Krapenc, an attorney for one of the others charged, Jeffrey Longstreth, entered the not-guilty plea."

Former Federal Prosecutor: Loughlin's Daughters Were Complicit In College Admissions Scandal.

Fox News (8/20, Young, 27.59M) reports, "Olivia Jade and Isabella Giannulli should" be "right there with their parents Lori Loughlin and Mossimo Giannulli when the husband and wife are sentenced for their roles in the college admissions scandal on Friday, according to one legal expert. 'I would have charged the daughters,' former U.S. Attorney Naema Rahmani, who is not involved in the case, told The Mercury News on Thursday. 'They were absolutely complicit.'" Fox News adds that today, "the 'Full House' actress, 56, and her fashion designer husband, 57, will be handed their sentences after accepting a plea deal and pleading guilty. The couple was accused of paying \$500,000 to have their two daughters designated as recruits for the University of Southern California (USC) despite the fact that neither of them ever participated in the sport. Their daughters no longer attend USC."

Former Uber Executive Charged In Hacking Cover-Up.

The AP (8/20, Dazio) reports, "A former Uber executive was charged Thursday in federal court on allegations that he arranged to pay hackers \$100,000 to cover up a high-tech heist that stole the personal information about 57 million of the ride-hailing service's users and drivers during 2016." The AP adds, "Two hackers pleaded guilty in the scheme last year and are awaiting sentencing. The criminal complaint filed Thursday against Joseph Sullivan, Uber's former chief security officer, alleges that the hackers shared the data with a third person - who may still have it. Sullivan, 52, previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in a Computer Hacking and IP Unit. He worked in the same federal prosecutor's office that brought the charges against him."

US Charges Former Suburban Chicago School Chief With Looting Lunch Program For Needy.

The AP (8/20) reports from Chicago, "Federal fraud charges have been filed against the operator of a suburban Chicago private school operator who is accused of looting hundreds of thousands of dollars from a school nutrition program. The charges filed against Pamela Strain, founder of Beacon Hill Preparatory Academy, allege she failed to report the fraudulent income to the IRS." The AP adds, "Defense attorney Michael Monico said Thursday the charges against Strain is expected to resolved before trial. Her arraignment is set for Aug. 28."

The Chicago Tribune (8/20, Meisner, 2.65M) reports that Strain "was charged Wednesday in a two-count criminal information alleging she failed to report the fraudulent income from the child nutrition program to the IRS. The charges come nearly three years after the Chicago Tribune detailed in a front-page story the federal investigation into Strain's small private school, which operated at various locations in the south suburbs before reopening in Lansing in 2016 under a new name, Lighthouse Christian Academy." The Tribune adds, "An FBI search warrant made public in 2017 showed that Strain allegedly used her ill-gotten funds to pay for a lavish lifestyle, including her home and other properties, luxury cars, spas, salons and shopping sprees at stores such as Victoria's Secret and Macy's, the Tribune reported."

Jamaican Man Sentenced In Florida Lottery Scheme.

The AP (8/20) reports from Jacksonville, Florida, "A Jamaican man has been sentenced to five years and six months in federal prison in the U.S. for running a lottery scheme in Florida and his home country." According to the AP, "A federal judge in Jacksonville sentenced Darryl Cleon Forbes, 27, earlier this week, according to court records. The court also ordered Forbes to forfeit \$2.4 million and pay \$1.1 million in restitution. He pleaded guilty in November to conspiracy to commit wire fraud." The AP adds, "From 2015 to 2017, Forbes and others operated a fraudulent sweepstakes scheme, prosecutors said. Forbes and his co-conspirators, posing as FBI and Department of Treasury officials, falsely informed victims in the U.S. that they had won a prize in a sweepstakes and had to pay various fees and taxes to retrieve their prize. The group often targeted the elderly."

US Charges California Man As Ringleader Of Scheme To Defraud National Retailer.

The Orange County (CA) Register (8/20, 546K) reports, "An Irvine man is accused of being the ringleader in a scheme that fraudulently obtained employee identification cards and discounts to buy millions of dollars worth of electronics from a national retailer, the Department of Justice announced Thursday." The OCR adds, "A dozen people took part in the scheme, according to a federal grand jury. Four of them – including the lead defendant, Abdallah Osseily, 34, of Irvine – were arrested Wednesday by the FBI. Three of the defendants were arraigned that day in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana and were ordered released on bond, authorities said. The fourth defendant was arrested in Arizona and appeared in Phoenix federal court. The other eight defendants will appear in federal court later." According to the OCR, "The defendants face 54 counts of various charges including conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, mail fraud and wire and bank fraud, according to the indictment."

Alabama Doctor, Others Sentenced In Healthcare Fraud Scheme.

WBRC-TV Birmingham, AL (8/20, Reynolds, 58K) reports, "A Birmingham doctor and two co-conspirators were sentenced for health care fraud, unlawful drug distribution and money laundering." Patrick Emeka Ifediba "was sentenced to 30 years in prison Tuesday for his involvement with Care Complete Medical Clinic, located in Birmingham. Ngozi Justina Ozuligbo and Clement Essien Ebio were sentenced Thursday. Ozuligbo was sentenced to 36 months in prison and Ebio got 30 months." The FBI and DEA "investigated the case as part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force operation."

Insurance Executive Sentenced For Bribery, Corruption In North Carolina.

Behind a paywall, Law360 (8/20, Subscription Publication, 8K) reports, "A North Carolina federal judge has sentenced the owner of an insurance conglomerate and his consultant to prison, giving the owner more than seven years behind bars for conspiring to bribe the state's insurance commissioner by offering as much as \$2 million to shut down a troublesome investigation." US District Judge Max Cogburn on Wednesday "sentenced Greg E. Lindberg, the founder of Eli Global LLC and the owner of Global Bankers Insurance Group, to 87 months in prison and his consultant John D. Gray to 2½ years in prison."

Financial Salesmen Drop Fight Against SEC Effort To Freeze Assets In Par Funding Dispute.

The Inquirer (PA) (8/20, McCoy, 347K) reports, "In an early win for federal regulators pursuing a sweeping fraud lawsuit, two financial salesmen named in the case have dropped their opposition to putting key businesses into receivership and freezing their personal assets." Perry S. Abbonizio, "a Montgomery County financial consultant, specifically agreed in a court filing Thursday not to sell his estimated \$6 million in real estate – his home in Collegeville and two luxury houses he bought last year in Stone Harbor and Avalon. He also agreed to leave untouched \$1.7 million in his bank account. The other to withdraw his opposition was Florida salesman, Michel C. Furman, according to legal papers filed Thursday."

CYBER DIVISION

WSJournal: Trump's Comments About Oracle Colors Sale Of TikTok.

In an editorial, the Wall Street Journal (8/20, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) calls President Trump's apparent support on Tuesday of the possibility of Oracle purchasing TikTok impolitic, given that Oracle chairman Larry Ellison has hosted a fundraiser for Trump in the past. Politics should have no role in the sale of TikTok, the Journal asserts.

CISA Infrastructure Head Announces Resignation.

Federal Computer Week (8/20, Johnson, 263K) reports Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Assistant Director for Infrastructure Protection Brian Harrell "is resigning from his post, the agency confirmed to FCW." Harrell announced his departure "to agency employees today, saying he was returning to the private sector." Deputy Assistant Director Steve Harris will "replace Harrell on an acting basis, the agency said."

Biden Staffers "Quietly Draft" US Cyberdefense Policy.

Politico (8/20, Geller, 4.29M) reports Joe Biden's team is "quietly drafting plans to bolster U.S. defenses against the hacker armies of Russia, China and other adversaries – and drawing support from former cyber officials of both parties." Some "veteran policy hands" who have spoken with Biden's "dozens of cybersecurity advisers say their big hope for a Biden administration is a better organized, more sustained focus on threats like election interference and cybercrime." However, they don't expect a "total uprooting of President Donald Trump's policies, which in the cyber arena have been mostly nonpartisan." Dozens of corporate cyber executives "also took part in a previously unreported Biden campaign fundraiser last month. That's a sign, cybersecurity veterans said, that leading industry figures see Biden as the best choice to confront Russia's election interference, China's 5G ambitions and the inevitable next global malware outbreak."

China Calls Taiwanese Hacking Allegations "Malicious Slander."

Reuters (8/20, Crossley) reports China on Thursday called Taipei's accusations that it has hacked Taiwanese government systems "malicious slander," which Reuters says is "further adding to tensions between Beijing and Taipei." Taiwan has been "urging its people to be alert for what officials call 'omnipresent infiltration' from China, ranging from Beijing-backed media campaigns to cyberattacks, against the island that China considers its territory." Speaking in Beijing, "Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian poured scorn on the allegation." Zhao told reporters, "The criticisms from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities are malicious slander, pure and simple," adding, "China is a staunch defender of cybersecurity, and is one of the victims of hacking attacks."

US Industry Survey Finds Cybersecurity Programs Maturing.

Reuters (8/20, Wallace) reports investment advisers are enhancing "their cybersecurity programs by implementing formal protection plans, taking out insurance and stepping up security assessments, an influential industry survey has found." The results show that a "multi-year trend toward more broadly implemented and robust cybersecurity programs is continuing, the sponsors said." For the first time "in six years, business continuity planning related to COVID-19 surpassed cybersecurity as the hottest compliance topic for 2020, as the pandemic forced investment advisers to follow stay-at-home mandates, which have also created cybersecurity challenges." The 2020 survey was "cosponsored by the trade group Investment Adviser Association, ACA Compliance Group and Brightsphere Investment Group."

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

WTimes Analysis: Soros-Funded Progressive DAs In Place In Cities Where Crime Is Soaring.

The Washington Times (8/20, A1, Varney, 492K) reports, "Billionaire Democratic donor George Soros bankrolled the successful campaigns of a new crop of district attorneys who now preside over big cities with skyrocketing crime and frayed relationships with police departments." Soros-supported DA's in "Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco and other cities have fired scores of experienced prosecutors and, as promised, stopped prosecuting low-level quality-of-life crimes such as disorderly conduct, vagrancy and loitering." Their campaigns "often portrayed police as agents of a racist system that disproportionately imprisoned Blacks and other minorities."

OTHER FBI NEWS

FBI Criticized For Tweeting Link To Anti-Semitic Tract.

The Washington Post (8/20, Peiser, 14.2M) reports, "For over a century, the fabricated text 'The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion' has advanced a persistent anti-Semitic trope: that Jews are plotting to take over the world. From Hitler to Henry Ford, rabid anti-Semites have long shared the notorious text. On Wednesday, an FBI Twitter account did the same. An account called FBI Records Vault tweeted out a link to a PDF containing the anti-Semitic tome as well as FBI documents related to it, with no other context, leaving critics baffled and outraged." The FBI "later apologized and clarified that the account is automated and sends links to records that have been made public via Freedom of Information Act requests," but "outcry over the tweet continued after the mea culpa. In a statement, the Anti-Defamation League condemned the FBI for not noting that the documents are 'virulently anti-Semitic.'"

The Hill (8/20, Budryk, 2.98M) reports, "Despite the nature of the account, the tweet was widely criticized for lacking context. Groups that combat anti-Semitism note that the same tropes popularized by the 'Protocols' persist in modern canards such as the QAnon conspiracy theory. During her testimony during House impeachment proceedings, former White House national security official Fiona Hill compared conspiracy theories about Hungarian financier George Soros to the document. 'We have already received reports from many in the American Jewish community who are hurt by the irresponsible way this document was released,' the Anti-Defamation League said in a statement. 'We call on the FBI to correct this mistake now, and do better in the future.'"

Trial Date Set In Civil Suit Over 2017 Park Police Shooting.

The AP (8/20, Barakat) reports, "A judge on Thursday set a November trial date for a civil lawsuit in the 2017 fatal shooting by U.S. Park Police of a northern Virginia motorist, but government lawyers say the trial should be delayed because the officers involved in the shooting aren't talking about what happened." According to the AP, "The parents of Bijan Ghaisar filed a federal lawsuit last year, naming the United States of America as defendant for the shooting death of their son. Ghaisar, 25, of McLean, died after he was shot multiple times by two Park Police officers, Lucas Vinyard and Alejandro Amaya, at the conclusion of a stop-and-go chase on the George Washington Memorial Parkway in November 2017." The family "has accused federal authorities of stonewalling the investigation, and members of Congress...also have found fault with the government's handling of the investigation."

OTHER WASHINGTON NEWS

Trump Says Administration's Coronavirus Response Has Been "Phenomenal."

Asked about his Administration's handling of the coronavirus during his visit to Pennsylvania on Thursday, President Trump told WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, PA (8/20), "We have had a great record. We started with empty cupboards with very little left by the last Administration. And we have done a great job with ventilators. We are now making ventilators for countries all over the world. What we have done, if you look at our rates and our mortalities and fatalities and all sorts of different indicators, we have done a phenomenal job."

Redfield Expects Coronavirus Deaths To Start To Decline Next Week.

CNBC (8/20, Feuer, 3.62M) reports on its website, "Deaths attributed to the coronavirus will likely begin to drop over the next week," CDC Director Redfield said Thursday. Daily new infections have been "on a sustained decline since the end of July, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University," but "deaths, which lag behind new cases as people fall ill, become hospitalized and die, have remained stubbornly high, at roughly 1,000 new Covid-19 deaths per day, on average, according to a CNBC analysis of Hopkins data." Redfield said, "You and I are going to see the cases continue to drop. And then hopefully this week and next week, you're going to start seeing the death rate really start to drop again. I think we're going to start to see a decline in mortality across the country now next week as we continue to get control of these cases."

Azar Offers Assurances That Vaccine Testing Process Is Rigorous.

HHS Secretary Azar said on WSB-TV Atlanta (8/20, 170K) that "we believe that by the end of this year, we will have in the high tens of millions of doses of a FDA gold standard, authorized, or licensed vaccine," though "that's not 330 million doses for all Americans, and so we're working through a very transparent, public process now to determine how that vaccine should most effectively be distributed for maximum impact." Asked about the safety of a vaccine developed at warp speed, Azar said, "By Warp Speed means we're reducing inefficiency in the system, so it doesn't mean we're compromising standards."

Azar said on KVVU-TV Las Vegas (8/20, 35K) that "at this point, having invested in six different vaccines and supporting advanced manufacturing at the same time, which is what's really historic about what President Trump is doing here, we believe that it is credible that we could have in the high tens of millions of doses of FDA gold standard vaccine by the end of this year and many hundreds of millions of doses of vaccine as we go into next year."

Azar: Administration Is Not Seeking Mandates For Masks.

HHS Secretary Azar responded to anti-mask rallies on KVVU-TV Las Vegas (8/20, 35K) , saying that "masks are effective in controlling the spread of disease from individuals to others. Think of wearing a mask as I protect you, you protect me." Azar added, "Over 40% of us may have the virus and not know it. You could be spreading it to somebody who is vulnerable standing next to you at the grocery store." Azar said, "We're not asking for mandates on masks, but rather, we ask people as a matter of individual responsibility, individual behavior, just please, when you cannot socially distance, wear face coverings."

Delta Bans Former Navy SEAL Who Killed Bin Laden After Tweet Mocking Masks.

The New York Post (8/20, Meyer, 4.57M) reports, "The ex-Navy SEAL who killed Osama bin Laden and bragged on Twitter about not wearing a 'dumb-a--' mask on a Delta flight has now been banned from the airline, he said Thursday." Robert O'Neill tweeted, "I just got banned from @Delta for posting a picture." The ban "comes a day after he tweeted a smiling, mask-less selfie from his seat with the caption 'I'm not a p---y.'"

HHS Reverses Course, Will Return Coronavirus Data Collection To CDC.

The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Whelan, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports HHS is retreating from its decision to change the way hospitals report information on the novel coronavirus to the federal government, handing the responsibility for collecting the data back to the CDC. The decision comes after criticism that the new system resulted in delays and inconsistencies.

Administration Bars FDA From Regulating Some Coronavirus Lab Tests.

The Washington Post (8/20, A1, McGinley, Abutaleb, 14.2M) reports the Administration "this week blocked the Food and Drug Administration from regulating a broad swath of laboratory tests, including for the coronavirus, in a move strongly opposed by the agency." The move "stunned" many health experts, and some "warned the shift could result in unreliable coronavirus tests on the market, potentially worsening the testing crisis that has dogged the United States if more people get erroneous results." However, "supporters cheered the change as long overdue, saying it could help get new and more innovative tests to market more quickly."

Large Clinical Trial Tests Experimental Drug In Nursing Home Residents.

The New York Times (8/20, Kolata, 18.61M) reports that one nursing home in Illinois is the "first facility to participate in a large clinical trial of drug that might protect residents from the [coronavirus] infection in nursing homes and assisted living facilities." According to experts, "the new research, sponsored by Eli Lilly and the National Institutes of Health, is among the first large clinical trials to involve nursing home residents." The research involves "a monoclonal antibody, an artificially synthesized version of coronavirus antibodies produced by the body."

Evidence Mounts That Children Have Been "Silent Spreaders" Of The Virus.

The Washington Post (8/20, Cha, 14.2M) reports a study published in the Journal of Pediatrics "found that some children have significantly higher levels of virus in their airways than the most severely ill adults - suggesting their role in community spread may be larger than previously believed." The study's findings suggest that children "may have been acting as silent spreaders" throughout the pandemic. Alessio Fasano, one of the new study's authors, said, "Some people thought that children might be protected. This is incorrect. They may be as susceptible as adults - but just not visible."

Judge Rejects Los Angeles County's Effort To Sanction Church For Violating Restrictions.

The Washington Times (8/20, Richardson, 492K) reports, "A judge rebuffed Thursday efforts to Los Angeles County to hold in contempt and sanction Grace Community Church over its defiance of novel coronavirus restrictions." Superior Court Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff ruled in favor of the church "after Los Angeles County sought more than \$20,000 in penalties over Pastor John MacArthur's decision to hold in-person services Sunday at its 3,500-seat sanctuary in defiance of county COVID-19 restrictions." The county is expected "to seek again a temporary restraining order against the non-denominational megachurch."

Cassidy Tests Positive For Coronavirus.

Reuters (8/20, Morgan) reports Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) "tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday, has decided to self-quarantine for 14 days and is contacting those with whom he may have had contact, according to a statement released by his office." Cassidy, a physician, said in a statement, "I am strictly following the direction of our medical experts and strongly encourage others to do the same." Axios (8/20, Fernandez, 521K) recounts "Cassidy is the second senator to test positive," following Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) in March.

CQ Roll Call (8/20, Tully-Mcmanus, 154K) reports "the Louisiana Republican said he was notified Wednesday evening that he'd been exposed to someone with the disease," and the AP (8/20) that the "announcement came a day after he was in north Louisiana, visiting a veterans hospital in Shreveport, where he posted a photo with an official from the facility." The Washington Examiner (8/20, Hogberg, 448K), The Hill (8/20, Carney, 2.98M), and Politico (8/20, Desiderio, 4.29M), among other news outlets, also report the story.

Trump Administration Declares Teachers Essential Workers.

NBC Nightly News 📺 (8/20, story 6, 2:00, Holt, 5.6M) reported that the Trump Administration "has formally declared teachers essential workers. But as the President continues to push to reopen in person schools, teachers from several cities are threatening to strike." NBC (Thompson) added that in Detroit, teachers "overwhelmingly approve[d] a potential safety strike. In New York City where public schools are set to open their doors in three weeks, teachers are threatening to strike as well." White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said on Fox News (8/20, 896K), "We believe teachers are essential workers. The media never stopped working during this pandemic, our meat packers didn't stop working during this pandemic, our law enforcement didn't stop working during this pandemic – nor should our teachers, because America's children must come first."

HHS Secretary Azar was asked on KVVU-TV 📺 Las Vegas (8/20, 35K) about the safety of reopening schools and said that "we believe schools can reopen safely and sensibly to protect kids and protect faculty members. It's the basic tools that I say to everybody, the three W's: wash your hands, wear your face coverings, watch your distance. If we do those things and we build protocols in our schools, we can get back to school safely."

The CBS Evening News 📺 (8/20, story 5, 1:55, Lenghi, 4.17M) reported that "an alarming study published today in the Journal Of Pediatrics [found that] children up to age 22 are much more likely to be silent spreaders than previously believed." Joseph Allen from Harvard's Chan School of Public Health told the CBS Evening News 📺 (8/20, story 6, 2:30, O'Donnell, 4.17M), "It can't be schools as usual this fall. We can only go back when community spread is under control, and when aggressive risk-reduction strategies are in place within the four walls of the school." Asked if mask wearing should be mandatory, Chan said, "Without a question."

WSJournal Lists Equipment Needed For Children To Successfully Learn At Home.

The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Vaglica, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) provides a list of things a home classroom will need for children to succeed at virtual learning.

COVID Cases Reported On College Campuses In 17 States.

The CBS Evening News ² (8/20, story 5, 1:55, Lenghi, 4.17M) reported that COVID cases "are now on college campuses in at least 17 states." ABC World News Tonight ³ (8/20, story 6, 2:55, Osunsami, 6.79M) reported, "At Notre Dame in Indiana, where the football team means everything to this school, today they announced that five of their players tested positive for COVID-19, along with 75 other students. They now have more than 300 confirmed cases, and students are now having to live with new restrictions." At Purdue "school administrators...suspended 36 students who were partying just [Wednesday] night. At the University of Kansas, they've just connected 89 new cases to Greek houses on campus."

DACA Recipients Sue Over Alleged Job Discrimination.

The New York Times (8/20, Jordan, 18.61M) reports that David Rodriguez, who "was a beneficiary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program," is "now a plaintiff in a lawsuit that seeks to use civil rights law to prevent employers from turning away immigrants like himself, a legal fight that is underway even as President Trump is threatening to end the program." The Times adds, "While the courts have accepted DACA's legality and have blocked the recent attempts to abruptly cancel it, some of the country's biggest companies are unilaterally refusing to hire Dreamers." Employers are "wary of investing time and money to train workers whose long-term employment eligibility is not secure."

DOJ Defends Trump's Suspension Of H-1B Visas.

Bloomberg (8/20, Rosenblatt, 4.73M) reports that the Trump Administration maintains that "a lawsuit seeking to throw out immigration restrictions, including those on H-1B visas used by technology workers, would 'cut at the heart' of the president's legal authority over border control when it is needed most." Bloomberg adds groups including the US Chamber of Commerce "seek a court order blocking implementation of President Donald Trump's June 22 proclamation, which they say repeals entire visa categories for temporary workers." Bloomberg also reports that "ahead of a Sept. 11 hearing in San Francisco federal court to weigh the request, the Justice Department cited the coronavirus pandemic to argue that Trump properly relied on his 'broad authority to suspend the entry of certain aliens.'"

Trump To Appeal After Judge Dismisses His Challenge To Manhattan DA's Subpoena.

ABC World News Tonight ⁴ (8/20, story 8, 0:20, Muir, 6.79M) reported last night that "a federal judge has rejected President Trump's latest attempt to keep his financial records private." ABC added that "Manhattan prosecutors have subpoenaed the President's tax records as part of its investigation into hush money payments to Stormy Daniels." The CBS Evening News ⁵ (8/20, story 2, 0:15, Tracy, 4.17M) said it was "another legal setback for...Trump."

The AP (8/20, Sisak) reports that "Trump's lawyers moved swiftly Thursday to appeal" the ruling by US District Judge Victor Marrero, whose ruling "echoed his prior decision in the case, upheld last month by the US Supreme Court." The High Court "had returned the case to Marrero's courtroom to give Trump's lawyers a chance to raise other concerns about the subpoena issued by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr." Trump's lawyers "immediately appealed Marrero's Thursday ruling to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals." The Washington Times (8/20, Swoyer,

492K) points out Marrero is "a Clinton appointee," and adds that his ruling "takes Mr. Vance another step closer to obtaining the records, but it is unlikely that would happen before the November election."

The New York Times (8/20, Weiser, Rashbaum, 18.61M) reports that Marrero "roundly dismiss[ed] Mr. Trump's arguments that the prosecutor's grand jury subpoena was 'wildly overbroad' and issued in bad faith." USA Today (8/20, Phillips, 10.31M) indicates Marrero wrote of Trump's legal arguments, "At its core, it amounts to absolute immunity through a back door, an entry point through which not only a President but also potentially other persons and entities, public and private, could effectively gain cover from judicial process."



The Washington Post (8/20, Jacobs, Fahrenthold, 14.2M) recounts that Vance "has been investigating hush-money payments made ahead of the 2016 election to two women who alleged having affairs with Trump years ago, claims the president has denied." Vance's office "recently suggested it is also looking at potential bank and insurance fraud related to the Trump Organization." The Hill (8/20, Kruzel, 2.98M), Politico (8/20, Cheney, 4.29M), Bloomberg (8/20, Van Voris, Dolmetsch, 4.73M), the CNBC (8/20, Higgins, 3.62M) website, and Reuters (8/20, Freifeld, Stempel) have more on the ruling and the appeal.

Trump: Vance's Probe "Most Hideous Witch Hunt" In US History. The New York Post (8/20, Bowden, 4.57M) reports the President "called an investigation into his financial records led by New York prosecutors 'the most hideous witch hunt in the history of our country.'" Trump told reporters, "This is a continuation of the witch hunt, the greatest witch hunt in history. There's never been anything like it, where people want to examine every deal you've ever done to see if they can find that there's a comma out of place. ... No president has ever had to go through this, the Supreme Court shouldn't have allowed this to happen."

Cohen To Appear On "Late Night With Seth Meyers."

The New York Post (8/20, Barone, 4.57M) reports President Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen "said he's agreed to appear for an interview on NBC's 'Late Night With Seth Meyers' as he promotes his forthcoming tell-all on Trump, 'Disloyal.'"

Fauci Undergoes Outpatient Surgery To Remove Vocal Chord Polyp.

ABC World News Tonight  (8/20, story 9, 0:15, Muir, 6.79M) reported last night that NIAID Director Fauci is "recovering from outpatient surgery to remove a polyp from his vocal chord," and the CBS Evening News  (8/20, story 9, 0:20, O'Donnell, 4.17M) that the "the nation's top infectious disease expert, now 79 years old," has been "advised by his doctors to limit his speaking while his vocal chords recover." The AP (8/20) recounts Fauci is "home and resting."

USA Today (8/20, Cummings, 10.31M) recalls "Fauci was asked about his voice during an April 28 interview with Economic Club of Washington President David Rubenstein," who said, "People keep commenting it's a little raspy. ... Are you talking too much, or what?" Fauci "said the problem began after he got the H1N1 flu in December. He was beginning to recover when the pandemic began, which forced him to conduct almost constant briefings." Fauci added, "I probably have a polyp there."

In its story about Fauci's surgery, Politico (8/20, Choi, Oweremohle, 4.29M) reports the President "has insisted that he and Fauci maintain a good relationship, brushing aside rumors of internal disputes and a president feeling upstaged by the popular director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases." However, "tension has been apparent at times between" the two. Along similar lines, the Washington Post (8/20, Bernstein, 14.2M) recounts that "when actor

Brad Pitt portrayed Fauci on 'Saturday Night Live' in a late-April appearance, The Washington Post noted that Pitt adopted Fauci's 'distinctive raspy voice.'"

Trump Blasts Universal Mail-In Voting, Says "They Are Trying To Steal This Election."

During his visit to Pennsylvania Thursday, President Trump told WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, PA (8/20), "The big problem isn't the post office it is what is going to happen when they are giving out millions and millions of ballots and dumping them all over the place. And again, absentee ballots are good. ... But these universal mail-in ballots are horrible. It is going to be a scandal like you have never seen before." Trump said on Fox News' Hannity (8/20, 535K), "They are sending out 51 million ballots to people that didn't ask for them. Absentee ballots are great. I used one for Florida. ... That's when you go through a process. You ask for it. They send it to you and it's very secure. There is nothing like going to the voter's booth and we should have voter ID which the Democrats don't want for obvious reasons. ... Fifty-one million ballots sent to who knows who. Where are they going? This is going to be the greatest scam in history. This will be the most fraudulent election in history."

Trump tweeted Thursday night, "They are sending out 51,000,000 Ballots to people who haven't even requested a Ballot. Many of those people don't even exist. They are trying to STEAL this election. This should not be allowed!"

Trump Campaign Sues To Prevent Use Of Drop Boxes In Pennsylvania. Reuters (8/20, Sullivan, Renshaw) reports that as election officials "gird for a dramatic expansion of mail voting in the Nov. 3 election, Democrats across the country are promoting drop boxes as a convenient and reliable option for voters who don't want to entrust their ballots to the U.S. Postal Service." Reuters adds that Trump's reelection campaign "has sued to prevent their use in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state, alleging that the receptacles could enable voting fraud." Reuters says the Trump campaign "argues that people could drop off multiple ballots in boxes that are unstaffed, which is an illegal practice in Pennsylvania." According to Reuters, "Republican officials in other states have prevented their use."

Trump: Concerns Over Cutbacks To USPS Were "A Fake By Pelosi And Schumer."

During his visit to Pennsylvania Thursday, WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, PA (8/20) asked President Trump about concerns over "cutbacks at the US Postal Service." Trump said, "It was all a fake by [House Speaker] Pelosi and [Senate Minority Leader] Schumer. They were trying to make a big deal out of it. The post office is losing a fortune and we have a good businessman running it and he wants to do things where it can lose less and maybe ultimately make some money because I think it can if they charge the right price per package." Trump added that "they are not going to do anything until after the election and even then I said we don't want to lose any jobs. We could make the post office really special but we have to do something on packages without charging people. Whether it is Amazon or a competing business, they have to start paying up."

DeJoy Set For Grillings Over USPS Reforms. The New York Times (8/20, Cochrane, Fuchs, Vogel, Silver-Greenberg, 18.61M) reports that Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's "move to halt changes that were viewed as a threat to mail-in voting did little to quell the outcry over his leadership...with lawmakers calling on Wednesday for his removal and one top Democrat demanding more answers about the secretive process that led to a major Trump donor running the Postal Service." Schumer "called on the Postal Service board of governors to release information about the selection process that resulted in Mr. DeJoy's appointment, saying that the changes made under his watch underscored the need for more details." The Times also reports

that "lawmakers plan to question Mr. DeJoy at a Senate committee hearing on Friday and at a House oversight hearing on Monday."

The AP (8/20, Izaguirre, Slodysko) says DeJoy is a "wealthy Republican donor," who "owned a logistics business that was a longtime Postal Service contractor, and he has significant financial stakes in companies that do business or compete with the agency. That has led critics to question whether he has conflicts of interest, something DeJoy is almost certain to be asked about during" his testimony. The AP adds that DeJoy and his wife "have a history of donating to conservative causes and Republican candidates, including \$1.2 million to President Donald Trump's election efforts."

Similarly, Bloomberg (8/20, Shields, Fiatley, Allison, 4.73M) describes DeJoy as a "wealthy transportation executive and Republican megadonor," and says Republicans "might seek to blame the Obama administration for decisions to trim costs that were put in play since DeJoy arrived in June while also arguing that they are necessary." Bloomberg also reports that Republicans "are likely to use the hearings to counter calls for more funding for the beleaguered agency, which members of both parties say is overdue for profound reform."

The Washington Post (8/20, Bogage, Ingraham, 14.2M) reports that "according to a grievance filed by the American Postal Workers Union...the Postal Service was poised to decommission 671 of the massive [sorting] machines, about 10 percent of its inventory, and capable of sorting 21.4 million pieces of paper mail per hour." The Post says the Postal Service "processes as much as 500 million items each day." According to the Post, "But Postal Service officials and industry insiders say the removals were part of a long-range plan, one that reflects Americans' diminishing use for letters and growing reliance on package delivery."

Former USPS Board Of Governors Vice Chairman Says Mnuchin Politicized The Postal Service. The New York Times (8/20, Fandos, Edmondson, Rappeport, 18.61M) reports David C. Williams, the former Vice Chairman of the US Postal Service Board of Governors, accused Treasury Secretary Mnuchin on Thursday "of politicizing the Postal Service, telling lawmakers that Mr. Mnuchin required members of the independent board to 'kiss the ring' before they were confirmed and issued demands agency officials believed were 'illegal.'" In testimony to the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Williams "detailed why he left the board. His statement to lawmakers accused the Treasury Department of trying to turn the agency into a 'political tool.'" Williams said, "By statute the Treasury was made responsible for providing the Postal Service with a line of credit. ... The Treasury was using that responsibility to make demands that I believed would turn the Postal Service into a political tool, ending its long history as an apolitical public infrastructure."

Democrats Say Administration Is Weakening Postal Service To Undermine Mail-In, Absentee Voting. USA Today (8/20, Shannon, Siack, McCoy, 10.31M) reports, "Accounts of mail delays have been documented across the country in recent weeks by the USA Today Network. One of the most common complaints: Mail is simply not delivered for days on end." While it is "unclear how widespread these delivery problems are," USPS data "show deliveries are taking longer than last year. On-time first-class deliveries dropped from 93.4% in the second quarter of 2019 to 90.8% for the same period this year. The goal was 96%." USA Today adds that "top Democrats" say the Administration "is kneecapping the Postal Service to hamper mail-in and absentee voting, which surged this spring amid the coronavirus pandemic."

Trump Says He Will Use Law Enforcement Agencies To Prevent Voter Fraud.

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Leonardi, 448K) reports that in an interview with Fox News' Hannity (8/20, 535K) Thursday, "President Trump said he would employ various law enforcement

agencies during election voting to prevent fraud." Asked, "Are you going to have an ability to monitor, to avoid fraud, and cross-check whether or not these are registered voters," Trump said, "We're going to have everything. We're going to have sheriffs, and we're going to have law enforcement, and we're going to have, hopefully, US attorneys. And we're going to have everybody and attorney generals [sic]. But it's very hard. I mean, you have some of these states sending them out, like Nevada, where they don't even have to check the signatures, so anybody can sign it. New Jersey just sent it out, where the governor, as I understand it, just signed an executive order, didn't even go through the legislature to get it done. And nobody has ever heard of anything like this."

Trump tweeted Thursday night, "To get into the Democrat National Convention, you must have an ID card with a picture...Yet the Democrats refuse to do this when it come to your very important VOTE! Gee, I wonder WHY???"

Board Of Canvassers Investigating After 72% Of Detroit Absentee Ballot Counts Were Off. The Detroit News (8/20, Mauber, 825K) reports the board responsible for certifying election results in Wayne County, Michigan's largest county, "is asking Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's office to investigate after problems with tracking ballots in Detroit's primary, which one official described as a 'perfect storm.'" According to information presented to the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, "counts for ballots in about 72% of Detroit's absentee voting precincts for the Aug. 4 primary election were out of balance without an explanation. ... The number of ballots tracked in precinct poll books did not match the number of ballots counted." Jonathan Kinloch, "a Democrat and one of the canvassing board's four members" said the results weren't incorrect, but something went wrong in the process of tracking ballots precinct by precinct.

Trump Asks Supreme Court To Rule On Whether He Can Block People On Twitter.

The AP (8/20, Sherman) reports that President Trump is asking the Supreme Court "to allow him to block critics from his personal Twitter account." The Administration "said in a high-court filing Thursday that Trump's @realdonaldtrump account with more than 85 million followers is his personal property and blocking people from it is akin to elected officials who refuse to allow their opponents' yard signs on their front lawns. 'President Trump's ability to use the features of his personal Twitter account, including the blocking function, are independent of his presidential office,' acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall wrote in urging the justices to review the case."

CNBC (8/20, Higgins, 3.62M) reports on its website that a federal appeals court ruled last year that the President "used his account as 'an official channel of communication,'" and "on that basis, the unanimous three-judge panel" of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals said Trump "has effectively created a public forum, and was forbidden from blocking users based on their political views." Politico (8/20, Nyien, 4.29M) says Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University "filed...suit on behalf of seven people whom Trump had blocked after they posted comments criticizing the president." Reuters (8/20, Shepardson), among other news outlets, also reports the story.

McEnany Says Trump Has Not "Looked Into" QAnon Conspiracy.

Politico (8/20, Cohen, 4.29M) reports that on Thursday, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany "said she has never heard President Donald Trump mention QAnon, as a growing number of Republicans sharply criticized Trump's appreciative stance on the conspiracy theory." McEnany told Fox News, "The media talks a lot about this so-called QAnon. I've never heard the President mention it. ... I talk to him oftentimes 10 times a day. Not once have I heard him mention this group. The media can focus on QAnon." According to Politico, on Wednesday, the President

"said...he appreciated support from QAnon followers, adding he did not know much about the group." On Thursday, McEnany "repeated Trump's message that he knows little about QAnon, claiming the president 'has not at all looked into who QAnon is.'"

The New York Times (8/20, Rosenberg, Haberman, 18.61M) says a "small but growing number of Republicans...are donning the QAnon mantle." The Times says Trump is "chief among the party's QAnon promoters." Trump "has employed a wink-and-nod approach to the conspiracy theory, retweeting its followers but conspicuously ignoring questions about it. Yet with the election drawing ever closer and Mr. Trump's failure to manage the Covid-19 pandemic harming his re-election prospects, the White House and some Trump allies appear to have taken to openly courting believers." The Washington Post (8/20, Olorunnipa, Stanley-Becker, 14.2M) says Trump "has given a nod to fringe groups and welcomed them into the mainstream of his party. Beyond being unfounded, many of the ideas Trump is bolstering are dangerous, according to intelligence officials, political scientists and, increasingly, members of the president's own party."

Sasse, Jeb Bush Criticize Trump's Comments About QAnon. The Washington Examiner (8/20, Drucker, 448K) says Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) "snapped at" Trump "for expressing support for voters who believe in the QAnon conspiracy theory, warning that if Democrats win the White House and take the Senate, it will be partly because of 'garbage like this.'" In a statement Thursday morning, Sasse said, "QAnon is nuts, and real leaders call conspiracy theories conspiracy theories. ... If Democrats take the Senate, blow up the filibuster, and pack the Supreme Court, garbage like this will be a big part of why they won." The Examiner adds that while Sasse "did not mention Trump by name, it is clear from the timing of his statement that he was referring to the president's comments from a Wednesday evening news conference at the White House" in which Trump "praised QAnon followers, explaining that they support him, love the country, and are disturbed by the ongoing civil unrest in some cities."

The Washington Times (8/20, Muñoz, 492K) reports that former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R) "also criticized the president's comments." Bush tweeted, "Why in the world would the President not kick Q'anon supporters' butts? Nut jobs, racists, haters have no place in either Party."

Cheney Condemns QAnon Movement. The Hill (8/20, Brufke, 2.98M) reports that Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) "denounced" QAnon Thursday "as a 'dangerous lunacy,' becoming the highest-ranking GOP lawmaker to condemn it." Cheney said in a statement, "QAnon is a dangerous lunacy that should have no place in American politics."

White House Reassessing Permit For AK Mine After Appeals From "Influential Republicans."

The Washington Post (8/20, Eilperin, Parker, Mufson, 14.2M) reports that federal approval of the Pebble Mine, "a controversial gold and copper mine in Alaska...may be put on hold after a small group of influential Republicans...launched a full-court press to block the project." The mine "was on the verge of winning a key permit from the Trump administration despite concerns from environmentalists that it could significantly damage Alaska's world-renowned sockeye salmon fishery in nearby Bristol Bay," which "also happens to be a fishing spot of Donald Trump Jr., who made an impassioned case against the mine to his father during an early August." Trump donor Andrew Sabin "also told the president that the mine was a bad idea. And last week, [Fox News' Tucker] Carlson argued against the proposed mine on his television show." Those appeals have "prompted the White House to reassess the mine, according to two individuals familiar with the matter."

California Fires Force Tens Of Thousands To Evacuate.

The Los Angeles Times (8/20, Serna, 4.64M) reports, "Evacuations widened in the San Francisco Bay Area overnight as wildfires ringing the region scorched hundreds of square miles, edged toward San Jose and produced perhaps the world's worst air quality." So far, "more than 349,000 acres have burned in Northern and Central California – the equivalent of 546 square miles, more than the land area of the city of Los Angeles." Additionally, "at least 134 structures have been destroyed, and the fire-fanning weather conditions that have brought record temperatures and thousands of lightning strikes in the past few days are not expected to abate soon."

ABC World News Tonight (8/20, story 5, 1:55, Muir, 6.79M) reported that PG&E said Thursday "that one of their workers helping fire crews fight the blazes was found unconscious in his vehicle and later died. The death comes after chopper pilot Michael Fournier died fighting a different fire, crashing his chopper in Fresno County Wednesday."

The Wall Street Journal (8/20, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports cooler temperatures on Thursday allowed firefighters to make progress in gaining control over the wildfires. Still, many of the major fires in the San Francisco region are no more than 7% contained, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The Washington Post (8/20, Freedman, Samenow, 14.2M) reports, "This is just the beginning of the state's wildfire season, something that has been a constant threat during the past four years of record-setting blazes, both for their breadth and their lethality." According to the Post, "the current fires and their speed and thick smoke have presented a new terror amid a global pandemic – poor air quality, concerns about evacuating masses of people to crowded shelters, and concerns that some might not heed the warnings."

On NBC Nightly News (8/20, story 4, 2:05, Holt, 5.6M), Miguel Almaguer reported, "For now there remains no official number on the true scope of the damage, only estimates. While there is no question home after home was lost, entire communities were also wiped off the map." On the CBS Evening News (8/20, story 4, 1:45, O'Donnell, 4.17M), Carter Evans reported, "There is some good news, though. Those record-breaking temperatures are beginning to come down a bit. It's 15 degrees cooler today than yesterday."

Michigan Agrees To Pay \$600M To Flint Water Crisis Victims.

The CBS Evening News (8/20, story 7, 0:25, O'Donnell, 4.17M) reported that there is "a possible settlement in the long-running legal fight over contaminated water in Flint, Michigan. This began when the state switched Flint's water supply to the Flint River but did not treat it adequately, allowing lead to leak into the drinking water." NBC Nightly News (8/20, story 8, 0:20, Holt, 5.6M) reported that Michigan "and other defendants agreeing to pay \$600 million in a settlement with residents whose health was harmed by lead-tainted drinking water. Under the deal, 80% of the money will go to victims who were younger than 18 during the crisis."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Coronavirus Cases Surge Again In Europe.

The Washington Post (8/20, Hassan, Bellware, Partlow, 14.2M) reports, "After months of decline, the coronavirus is now 'steadily increasing' each week in Europe, a worrisome resurgence believed to be driven by infections among younger people, the World Health Organization said Thursday." WHO Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge "urged people in their 20s, 30s and 40s to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to slow the spread of the coronavirus." He "said there were 40,000 more cases in Europe in the first week of August compared with the first week of June."

Outbreak At South Korean Church Sets Up Clash Between Religion And Politics.

The New York Times (8/20, Sang-Hun, 18.61M) reports that many members of a South Korean church have contracted the coronavirus, and as the "large outbreak centered on the church spreads fast through Seoul and beyond," it threatens "the country's success in fighting the pandemic." The church in Seoul, known as the Sarang Jeil Church, "has attracted thousands of politically active conservative Christians, all united in the belief that their country is falling into a godless communist hell under the leadership of its liberal president, Moon Jae-in." According to the Times, "a deep antigovernment sentiment among church members could impede the health authorities' efforts."

South Africa's Coronavirus Response Tainted By Allegations Of Corruption.

The New York Times (8/20, Chutel, 18.61M) reports South Africa's response to the coronavirus pandemic and its delivery of aid have been tainted by allegations of corruption by public officials, "undermining confidence in a government that had initially received international acclaim for its assertive response to the pandemic." President Cyril Ramaphosa has "called those accused of corruption 'a pack of hyenas circling wounded prey,' and announced a new law enforcement unit to investigate the allegations." The scandal "includes allegations that government leaders and politically-connected cronies siphoned off money meant for the Unemployment Insurance Fund, and that relatives of public officials were handed inflated contracts to supply personal protective equipment."

US Demands Reimposition Of Iran Sanctions.

The AP (8/20, Lee, Riechmann, Lederer) reports, "The Trump administration on Thursday formally notified the United Nations of its demand for all U.N. sanctions on Iran to be restored, setting off an immediate confrontation with Russia and other Security Council members, including America's European allies, who called the U.S. move illegal." Secretary of State Pompeo "delivered the notification to the president of the U.N. Security Council, citing significant Iranian violations of the 2015 nuclear deal, a requirement to 'snap back' U.N. sanctions." The Hill (8/20, Kelly, 2.98M) reports Pompeo said, "The United States will never allow the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism to freely buy and sell planes, tanks, missiles and other kinds of conventional weapons."

National Security Advisor O'Brien was asked on Fox News' The Story (8/20) about next steps in the Administration's request for snapback sanctions on Iran after comments from China calling it "a political show" with "no legal ground." O'Brien said, "What's going to happen is the UN sanctions will go back in place. ... There may be party UN member states that don't like what the resolution says, but the resolution gives the US the right to snapback the sanctions and the countries that violate those sanctions will have a price to pay." O'Brien added, "We're taking this very seriously. No one wants to see Iran with advanced fighter jets, with main battle tanks, or with more missiles, that would be a disaster for the region."

Politico (8/20, Karnitschnig, 4.29M) reports, "The American push for sanctions has left Europe, which is intent on keeping the Iran nuclear deal alive and opposes the U.S. move, in an awkward position." According to Politico, "not only does it put the European powers on the Security Council (France, the U.K. and Germany, which currently holds a non-permanent seat) in the same camp as Russia and China, both of which oppose the U.S. position, it also creates the appearance the trio is backing Iran over Washington, Europe's most important ally."

Axios (8/20, Ravid, Lawler, 521K) reports, "France, Germany and the U.K., swiftly issued a statement opposing the U.S. move and questioning its legitimacy. They also restated their

commitment to preserving the deal." Pompeo "claimed the Europeans 'sided with the Ayatollahs even though they told the U.S. privately they want to see the arms embargo extended.'" The Wall Street Journal (8/20, McBride, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports Pompeo said, "No country but the United States has had the courage and conviction to put forward a resolution."

Reuters (8/20) reports that Russia has "rejected U.S. plans to restore U.N. sanctions on Iran as 'nonexistent,' saying only a country that remains in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal can trigger the return of the sanctions in a process known informally as 'snapback.'" The Washington Times (8/20, Meier, 492K) reports Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia, referring to Pompeo, said, "He's not triggering a snapback. Snapback can be triggered by a country that is a participant of the JCPOA, which the US is not."

Reuters (8/20, Nichols, Hafezi) reports, "Iran itself rejected the U.S. move, taken in part because of the impending October expiration of a U.N. arms embargo on Tehran, arguing Washington had no right trigger the re-imposition and asking Security Council members to reject the U.S. action." In a letter to the Security Council, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "The US push to reimpose U.N. sanctions on Iran will have dangerous consequences. Now it is the international community's turn to counter the unlawful push by the United States."

Politico (8/20, Choi, 4.29M) reports, "Israel, however, has been wholly supportive of Pompeo's move." Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan said in a video statement, "Not honoring the bidding snapback mechanism ... threatens to undermine the Security Council's effectiveness and its ability to uphold international peace and security. Reimposing the U.N. sanctions on Iran is a critical step to curbing Iranian aggression, which threatens the entire world."

NYTimes Analysis: US, Not Iran, Finding Itself Isolated. In an article titled "Instead Of Isolating Iran, U.S. Finds Itself On The Outside Over Nuclear Deal," the New York Times (8/20, Jakes, Sanger, 18.61M) reports, "A diplomatic standoff over restoring international sanctions against Iran may be the most vivid example yet of how the United States has largely isolated itself from the world order – instead of isolating Tehran, as the Trump administration intended." According to the Times, "the bigger issue is that even if Mr. Pompeo succeeds, he may be reimposing sanctions that no U.S. allies are willing to enforce. And that could not only weaken American authority worldwide, it may also show adversaries how to sidestep the United Nations in future global disputes."

Iran Unveils New Ballistic, Cruise Missiles.

CNBC (8/20, Macias, 3.62M) reports on its website, "Iran unveiled a new surface-to-surface ballistic missile on Thursday, a move likely to peeve Washington as the Trump administration attempts to rein in the regime's missile and nuclear weapon ambitions." Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami "said in a televised address that the missile has a range of approximately 870 miles and is named after Iranian Gen. Qasem Soleimani, who was killed in an U.S. strike in Iraq in January." Hatami added that "the regime had a new cruise missile boasting a range more than 620 miles and was named after Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, who also was killed in the strike."

Colombian President Claims Maduro Is Trying To Obtain Iranian Missiles.

Reuters (8/20, Acosta) reports that on Thursday, Colombian President Iván Duque "said...Maduro's administration is looking to buy Iranian missiles and is handing over weapons made in Russia and Belarus to Colombian armed groups. ... 'There is information from international intelligence organisms that work with us which shows there is interest from the

dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro in acquiring some medium and long-range missiles through Iran,' Duque said during a virtual event." According to Reuters, Duque "reiterated his frequent accusation that Maduro protects and supports former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia rebel group who reject a 2016 peace deal and the still-active National Liberation Army guerrillas."

Trump Reiterates That "We're Getting Out" Of Iraq.

The AP (8/20, Riechmann) reports that on Thursday, President Trump "reaffirmed his plan to withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq as quickly as possible as he met with the prime minister of Iraq to discuss ways to rein in pro-Iran militias in the country and counter residual threats from Islamic State sleeper cells. 'We look forward to the day when we don't have to be there,' Trump said during an Oval Office meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi." Trump is quoted as saying, "We were there and now we're getting out. We'll be leaving shortly and the relationship is very good. We're making very big oil deals. Our oil companies are making massive deals. ... We're going to be leaving and hopefully we're going to be leaving a country that can defend itself." USA Today (8/20, Jackson, 10.31M) says Trump "did not provide a timetable." He said, "At some point, we obviously will be gone. ... We look forward to the day when we don't have to be there."

Reuters (8/20, Mason, Shalal) reports that Trump "said Washington would remain ready to help if neighboring Iran took any hostile action." Trump said, "If Iran should do anything, we will be there to help the Iraqi people." The Washington Times (8/20, Meier, 492K) provides similar coverage.

Administration Sanctions Six Syrian Military, Government, Financial Officials.

The AP (8/20) reports that the Administration has "announced new sanctions against six Syrian military, government and financial officials as part of ongoing efforts to prevent money from going to President Bashar Assad's government." The State Department "sanctioned Yasser Ibrahim, who is suspected of obstructing a political solution to the Syrian conflict and using his networks across the Middle East and beyond to cut deals to enrich Assad. The Treasury Department took action against the Syrian presidential office and Syrian Ba'ath Party by targeting Luna al-Shibl, Assad's presidential media adviser, and Mohamad Amar Saati, a senior Ba'ath party official." Military officials Fadi Saqr, Ghaith Dalah and Samer Ismail were also sanctioned. Secretary of State Pompeo said, "We will continue pressure against the Assad regime to compel it to end its attacks against the Syrian people."

More Than Six Years Later, ISIS Members Have Not Faced Charges For Crimes Against Yazidis.

The New York Post (8/20, McKay, 4.57M) reports that in August 2014, ISIS operatives "swarmed Yazidi-majority villages in and around Sinjar Mountain," slaughtered "thousands of men" and took "thousands of girls and women...into sexual slavery." More than six years later, and "in spite of a U.S. formal designation of Yazidi genocide" no one in ISIS has been "prosecuted or tried for a crime." Anne Speckhard, director of the International Center for the Study of Violent Extremism (ICSVE), told Fox News, "The Iraqi justice system is overwhelmed with these cases and does not see a need to also prosecute for rape, which would require investigative work, calling witnesses and showing evidence when they have a good terrorism conviction easily obtained. The Yazidi have suffered unspeakable horrors at the hands of ISIS but there has been no specific justice meted out to them in response to the mass genocide and mass rapes."

Trump Says If Reports Of Bounties On US Troops Are Proved True, US Will Retaliate.

Reuters (8/20, Mason) reports that the President on Thursday "vowed to retaliate if other countries were found to have offered bounties for attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan, but he gave no indication whether his stance toward U.S. intelligence reports outlining the bounties had changed." Speaking at a White House event with the Iraqi Prime Minister, Trump "told reporters that if the reports were determined to be a fact," the US "would hit them so hard, your head would spin."

In Wake Of Israel Deal, UAE Expects US To Sell F-35s.

Reuters (8/20) reports that the United Arab Emirates' Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash indicated that the UAE's "accord to normalise ties with Israel should remove 'any hurdle' for the United States to sell the F-35 stealth fighter jet to the Gulf Arab state." According to Reuters, "The United States has sold the F-35 to allies, including Turkey, South Korea, Japan and Israel, but sales to the Gulf require a deeper review due to U.S. policy for Israel to maintain a military advantage in the Middle East." Gargash is quoted as saying, "We have legitimate requests that are there. We ought to get them ... the whole idea of a state of belligerency or war with Israel no longer exists."

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Gehrke, 448K) reports, "Gargash advanced that argument in the wake of reports that last week's UAE-Israeli deal included a secret agreement that Israel would acquiesce to such a sale." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "reiterated his opposition to the UAE's purchase of the cutting-edge stealth fighter jet, but President Trump acknowledged this week that the arms deal is 'under review,' even as Gargash maintained that it was 'not connected' to their decision to establish ties with Israel."

Israel And Germany Hold First Joint Military Exercise On German Soil.

The Washington Post (8/20, Berger, 14.2M) reports, "Israeli and German fighter jets roared together over the site of the Dachau concentration camp this week as part of the first joint exercise the nations' militaries have held on German soil." The two-week training which kicked off Tuesday "come as Germany grapples with a resurgence of anti-Semitic crimes, along with cases of far-right extremism among members of its armed forces and police." Israel, for its part, "appears eager to tighten strategic ties with Berlin and other NATO members as it pursues an assertive foreign policy."

WPost Analysis: Trump Has Benefited Xi By Taking Focus Away From Domestic Concerns.

According to the Washington Post (8/20, Dou, Shih, 14.2M), "the Trump presidency, despite bringing economic turmoil and technological setbacks to China, has provided useful opportunities for China's top leader Xi Jinping and the country's security establishment." The Post continues, "Despite pressuring Beijing with a steady drumbeat of punishing policies that have not been seen in 40 years of formal relations under either Republican or Democratic administrations, Trump in some ways has offered Xi a window of opportunity on the world stage and in domestic politics. Previously under pressure at home from the slowing economy and popular disillusionment with the Chinese Communist Party, Xi has been able to blame Washington's 'suppression' for all of China's travails while casting himself as a defender against foreign bullying."

Xi Enlists Law Enforcement In Anti-Corruption Campaign. The New York Times (8/20, Buckley, 18.61M) reports that the Chinese Communist Party, "citing Mao...has started a campaign

to ensure that police officers, judges and state security agents remain loyal and disciplined in challenging times." According to the Times, "Across China, police officers, judges, prosecutors and feared state security agents have been studying Mao's methods for political purges, absorbing them as guidance for a new Communist Party drive against graft, abuses and disloyalty in their ranks." The Times says "the campaign is shaping up as a sharp tool for the Communist Party leader, Xi Jinping, to bolster domestic discipline as he prepares for a leadership shake-up in two years."

US Using Frozen Funds To Pay Venezuelan Health Workers.

The Washington Post (8/20, Deyoung, Faiola, 14.2M) reports that the Trump Administration is "tapping into more than \$300 million in frozen Venezuelan government funds in an effort to give new momentum to its elusive goal of ousting President Nicolás Maduro." According to the Post, "About \$20 million will be used to send pandemic relief supplies to Venezuela via international health organizations. ... Within the next several weeks, 65,000 front-line health workers will begin receiving electronic payments of \$100 a month – a sum many times their average pay." The Post says the Administration "has refused to freely open the coffers to opposition leader Juan Guaidó, whom it recognizes as Venezuela's legitimate president. But it has set the wheels in motion to provide two years of back pay to federal lawmakers whose salaries Maduro suspended in 2016."

US Ramps Up Push For Nuclear Arms Agreement With Russia.

Axios (8/20, Lawler, 521K) reports, "Negotiations resumed in Vienna this week on a top Trump priority and potential election year twist: a U.S.-Russia nuclear agreement." US arms control envoy Marshall Billingslea "presented Russia with America's conditions for a deal, based on a 'clear mandate' from Trump." The Administration is 'ambivalent' the looming expiration of the 2011 New START treaty, "Billingslea says, but will agree to an extension if Russia signs onto its ambitious framework for a future nuclear treaty."

France, Germany Offer Treatment For Russian Opposition Leader After Suspected Poisoning.

The AP (8/20, Litvinova) reports Russian "opposition leader" Alexei Navalny, "one of Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, lay in a coma at a Siberian hospital Thursday, the victim of what his allies said appeared to be a poisoning engineered by the Kremlin." According to the AP, "The 44-year-old Navalny fell ill on a flight back to Moscow from the Siberian city of Tomsk and was taken to a hospital after the plane made an emergency landing in Omsk." Navalny's spokeswoman, Kira Yarmysh, "told the Echo Moskvyy radio station that he must have consumed poison in tea he drank at an airport cafe before boarding the plane early Thursday."

According to Reuters (8/20, Osborn, Zverev), "Doctors gave contradictory information about Navalny's condition, saying it had stabilised and that he was in a coma, but also that there was still a threat to his life and they were working to save him." The New York Times (8/20, Higgins, 18.61M) reports that "doctors at the No. 1 Clinical Hospital in Omsk...initially said that Mr. Navalny...was on a ventilator in 'serious condition but later reported that his condition, though still grave, had stabilized." According to the Times, Putin's spokesman "told journalists that the Kremlin wished Mr. Navalny a swift recovery, 'as we would for any citizen of Russia,' and would, if asked, provide help to get the opposition leader transferred to a hospital abroad." Yaroslav Ashikhmin, "a cardiologist who has served as Mr. Navalny's personal doctor, told Meduza, a Russian news outlet, that he was trying to get the opposition leader flown from Omsk to a hospital in either Hanover, Germany, or Strasbourg, France, with more experienced toxicology specialists."

The Washington Post (8/20, Khurshudyan, 14.2M) reports that Germany and France "offered medical treatment for Navalny, whose apparent poisoning brought parallels with other such incidents suspected of having links to the Russian state." On ABC World News Tonight ⁸ (8/20, story 7, 1:30, Muir, 6.79M), Ian Pannell reported, "Navalny's people desperately want to get him to Europe for medical treatment, and a German nonprofit is even offering to fly him out tonight, but so far, Russian hospital authorities are refusing to let him go."

On the CBS Evening News ⁸ (8/20, story 8, 1:20, O'Donnell, 4.17M), Chris Livesay reported, "Navalny has gained widespread support as an anti-corruption activist with powerful enemies, none more so than Vladimir Putin, notorious for allegedly using radioactive nerve agents to target double agents, defectors, and others who fall afoul of the Kremlin." Livesay added, "But the plot thickens. Here in neighboring Belarus, where President Alexander Lukashenko recently accused Navalny of stirring up these protests against him." On NBC Nightly News ⁸ (8/20, story 7, 1:55, Holt, 5.6M), Richard Engel reported Navalny has "expressed support" for protesters in Belarus, "who say their Russian-backed President stole the election."

National Security Advisor O'Brien was asked about the Administration's response to Navalny's poisoning on Fox News' The Story (8/20). O'Brien said, "It's very concerning. I want to first of all wish Navalny a very speedy recovery," adding "he's a very courageous man, politician, to have stood up to Putin inside Russia." O'Brien said, "We'll have to wait and see how this develops and we'll have to get evidence as to what happened, but it's extraordinarily concerning, and if the Russians were behind this as they were with Skripal or other incidence of the like, and there have been more than that in continental Europe, it's something that we're going to factor into how we deal with the Russians going forward."

THE BIG PICTURE

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

Joe Biden Promises Recovery From Crisis In Speech To DNC
Steve Bannon Charged In Alleged Border-Wall Fundraising Scheme
U.S. Jobless Claims Rose To 1.1 Million In Latest Week
Kodak's \$765 Million Moment: How It Happened And How It Went Wrong
Covid Is No Excuse For Grand Jury Duty When You Can Serve From Your Bedroom
Does Robinhood Make It Too Easy To Trade? From Free Stocks To Confetti

New York Times:

Joe Biden Accepts Democratic Nomination: 'I Will Draw on the Best of Us'
Biden Leaves Convention With a Clear Mission: Stop Trump
Biden Leaves Convention With a Clear Mission: Stop Trump
Steve Bannon Is Charged With Fraud in We Build the Wall Campaign
Aleksei Navalny Hospitalized in Russia in Suspected Poisoning
The Republican Embrace of QAnon Goes Far Beyond Trump

Washington Post:

Postmaster General Plans Mass Changes After Election
Joe Biden Poised To Accept A Presidential Nomination Three Decades In The Making
Bannon Charged In Border-Wall Fraud Case

Curtailed FDA Test Oversight Also Covers Coronavirus

Convention Fires Democratic Hopes In Pa. County That Flipped To Trump

Probe Details Ruthless Rise Of A New Gang In D.C.'s Suburbs

Financial Times:

Putin Opponent Alexei Navalny In A Coma After Suspected Poisoning

US Companies Award Execs Big Bonuses Before Declaring Bankruptcy

Governments Puzzle Over How To Unwind Job Protection Schemes

Steve Bannon Charged With Fraud Over Border Wall Fundraiser

Washington Times:

Biden Pledges To Restore Nation's 'Soul' As President

Sentiments About Trump Drive Voter Enthusiasm This Year

Former Trump Strategist Bannon Accused Of Fraud For Border Wall

Deported Mom's Story Starts With Clinton

Schools Closed For Classes Open For Child Care

Soros Money Helped Lax Prosecutors Get Elected

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Steve Bannon; DNC-Biden; Trump-PA Visit; DNC-Biden Speech; California-Wildfires; Coronavirus-Schools; Russia-Opposition Leader Poisoned; Trump-Financial Records; Dr. Fauci-Surgery; Weather Report; Chicago-Plane Bursts Into Flames; JetBlue-Mother & Kids Forced Off Plane; Cincinnati-Broadcaster Makes Homophobic Slur; Brother Uses Message in a Bottle to Ask Brother to be Groomsman.

CBS: Steve Bannon; Trump-Financial Records; DNC-Biden; California-Wildfires; Coronavirus-Schools; Coronavirus-Safely Opening Schools; Michigan-Flint Water Settlement; Russia-Opposition Leader Poisoned; Dr. Fauci-Surgery; Weather Report; NBA-Toronto Raptors President Law Suit; National Zoo-Panda Cam.

NBC: Steve Bannon; DNC-Biden; Dr. Jill Biden Interview; California-Wildfires; Weather Report; Coronavirus-Schools; Russia-Opposition Leader Poisoned; Michigan-Flint Water Settlement; NFL-Washington to Prohibit Fans From Wearing Headdresses; Cincinnati-Broadcaster Makes Homophobic Slur; Indianapolis-Student Accepted to 65 Colleges.

Network TV At A Glance:

Steve Bannon – 11 minutes, 0 seconds

Coronavirus – 9 minutes, 20 seconds

DNC-Biden – 8 minutes, 0 seconds

California-Wildfires – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Russia-Opposition Leader Poisoned – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: DNC; DNC-Speakers; SCOTUS-Trump Twitter Account; California-Wildfires.

CBS: DNC; Steve Bannon; California-Wildfires; Coronavirus-Schools; Pompeo-Iran Sanctions; Golden State Killer; Stocks.

FOX: DNC; RNC; Trump-PA Visit; Stocks.

NPR: DNC; Coronavirus-CDC Director; Unemployment; California-Wildfires; Steve Bannon.

WASHINGTON'S SCHEDULE

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

- President Trump — Delivers remarks at the 2020 Council for National Policy Meeting
- Vice President Pence — Delivers remarks on 'the Trump Administration's rejection of the failed ideologies advanced by the dangerous dictatorships in Venezuela and Cuba', in Miami

US Senate:

- U.S. Postmaster General DeJoy testifies to Senate Governmental Affairs Committee – Hearing on 'Examining the Finances and Operations of the United States Postal Service During COVID-19 and Upcoming Elections', held via videoconference, with testimony from U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy * DeJoy, who is known to have donated \$360,000 to President Donald Trump's reelection campaign this year, has been accused of helping 'the president's campaign to sabotage the election by manipulating the USPS to disenfranchise voters', including by reducing overtime, restricting deliveries, and providing conflicting information on the timeline for mail-in ballots. Last week, he announced a suspension of 'longstanding operational initiatives' until after the election, 'to avoid even the appearance of any impact on election mail', although has still faced criticism for not reversing the actions he has already taken, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi saying that DeJoy had 'frankly admitted' to her that he had 'no intention of replacing the ... key mail infrastructure that has been removed'; 9:00 AM
- Senate convenes for pro forma session – Senate convenes for pro forma session * Chamber on recess from 7 Aug – 8 Sep

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 11:15 AM

US House:

- House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 8015 – Delivering for America Act', held via Cisco Webex; 11:00 AM
- House meets in pro forma session – House of Representatives meets in pro forma session * Chamber on recess from 31 Jul – 7 Sep

Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC; 12:00 PM

Cabinet Officers:

- Secretary of State Pompeo concludes New York trip to inform the U.N. of restored sanctions on Iran – Secretary of State Mike Pompeo concludes two-day trip to New York, to notify the United Nations Security Council that the U.S. will initiate the process to restore U.N. sanctions on Iran * 30 days after Secretary Pompeo's notification, a range of U.N. sanctions will be restored, including the requirement that Iran suspend all enrichment-related activities. This will also extend the 13-year arms embargo on the country. Last week, the Council voted not to adopt a draft resolution tabled by the U.S. that would have extended the expiring embargo * While in New York, Secretary Pompeo also meets U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to discuss Iran and 'other issues of shared concern'

Location: New York, NY

Visitors:

- No visitors scheduled

This Town:

- New America discussion on building anti-racist organizations – New America Better Life Lab holds discussion on how to build anti-racist organizations, with Google Chief Diversity Officer Melonie Parker, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Equity and Inclusion Anselm

Beach, Quartz Senior Reporter Sarah Todd, and Fractured Atlas COO Tim Cynova and Chief External Relations Officer Lauren Ruffin; 1:00 PM

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Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:30 PM
To: [REDACTED] Winston, Alvin M. (CV) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

Thank you guys.

-

On Aug 19, 2020 6:26 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Thank you. Sending out now.

b6
b7C
b7E

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:21 PM
To: [REDACTED] Winston,
Alvin M. (CV) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

Please check. And send out. Thanks.

TWEET ONE

“Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI’s Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve.”

TWEET TWO

“The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past some of which may be considered offensive.”

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:06 PM
To: [REDACTED] Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Winston,
Alvin M. (CV) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

AD Hale, SC Winston, UC [redacted]

b6
b7C

Draft statement below re: Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion

[redacted]

b5

Best,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

National Press Office
FBI Office of Public Affairs
WFII (M) [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:44 PM

To: [redacted]

Subject: Re: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

How about starting sort of like the following:

[redacted]

b5

[redacted]

Unit Chief
National Press Office
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main) @FBI | @FBIMostWanted

b6
b7C
b7E

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI [redacted])

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:34 PM

To: [redacted]; Winston, Alvin M. (CV) (FBI [redacted])

Subject: RE: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

[redacted]

b5

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:30 PM

To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI [redacted]) Winston, Alvin M. (CV) (FBI [redacted])

Subject: Fw: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

So you are tracking. As you know when documents are added to the FOIA Vault a tweet is automatically generated. The Learned Elders of Zion document went out this way and has caused some media buzz about the FBI posting anti-semitic material.

[redacted]

Unit Chief
National Press Office
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main) @FBI | @FBIMostWanted

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:58 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: Re: FBI Vault Twitter posting

b6
b7C
b7E

Hi All,

I've send to RMD and they are reviewing our proposed statement now. If approved by RMD and [redacted] it will read as below.

b6
b7C

Best,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

b5

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:50 PM

b6
b7C
b7E

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: FBI Vault Twitter posting

thanks! We are tracking. [REDACTED] has a response.

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]
Unit Chief
National Press Office
FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6
b7C
b7E

[REDACTED] (desk) | [REDACTED] (cell) | [REDACTED] (main) @FBI | @FBIMostWanted

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:33 PM

b6
b7C
b7E

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FBI Vault Twitter posting

Hi [REDACTED]
FYI, I imagine you are already aware of this, but we got a call on our public affairs line from a citizen (she said she was a [REDACTED] saying that the FBI Vault had posted some anti-semitic documents on Twitter.

b6
b7C

I assume she is referring to this. Just wanted to make sure you were tracking.

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

- [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 5:00 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FBI Public Affairs Director's AM News Briefing Thursday, August 20, 2020
Attachments: FBIDirBriefing200820.doc

b7E

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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b7E

FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 5:00 AM EDT

Barr Announces More Than 1,000 Arrests In Operation Legend. USA Today (8/19, Johnson, 10.31M) reports that Attorney General Barr announced yesterday in Kansas City that “teams of federal and local authorities have made more than 1,000 arrests, including suspects in 90 homicides, as part of a national crackdown on violent crime in nine US cities.” The announcement “comes more than a month after the Trump administration launched the enforcement effort, known as Operation Legend.” USA Today adds that “last week, Kansas City, Missouri, authorities announced the arrest of a suspect in the slaying of LeGend Talferro, a 4-year-old murder victim for whom the effort was named, after about 200 federal agents had been dispatched to the city.” The Washington Examiner (8/19, Dunleavy, 448K) quotes Barr as saying, “For us, LeGend is a symbol of the many hundreds of innocent lives that have been taken in the recent upsurge in crime in many of our urban areas. ... His life mattered, and the lives of all of those victims mattered. His name should be remembered, and his senseless death, like those of all the other victims in this recent surge, should be unacceptable to all Americans.”

The Washington Times (8/19, Mordock, 492K) reports that out of all the arrests, “more than 200 defendants have been charged with federal crimes, including 90 murder suspects and nearly 400 guns have been taken off the streets.” Said Barr, “Operation Legend is the heart of the federal government’s response to this uptick in violent crime. ... Its mission is to save lives, solve crimes and take violent offenders off our streets before they can claim more victims.” Barr also said, “Rather than demonizing or defunding police, we are supporting and strengthening our law enforcement partners at the state and local level.” The AP (8/19, Stafford) also points out “Barr said the increase in violent crime in the last two years is due in part to efforts by activists to defund police in response to protests of racial inequality,” and Newsweek (8/19, Grzeszczak, 1.53M) that he “blamed the rise in violent crime in cities across the US on efforts to ‘demonize’ police officers and defund their work.”

The Washington Post (8/19, Zapotosky, 14.2M) says that “in any other administration, the program might have been noncontroversial,” but “President Trump announced its expansion last month just as tension hit a boiling point between protesters and federal law enforcement in Portland, Ore., and he took aim at Democratic leaders who he asserted were failing to keep their cities safe.”

Fox News (8/19, Wallace, 27.59M) recounts that “first launched in Kansas City, Operation Legend expanded to Chicago and Albuquerque on July 22, to Cleveland, Detroit, and Milwaukee on July 29, to St. Louis and Memphis on August 6, and to Indianapolis on August 14.” Fox adds “the latest figures on charges and arrests do not include Indianapolis, whose operation was first announced last Friday.” The New York Post (8/19, Nelson, 4.57M) says “the most federal charges are in Chicago, with 61 cases.”

The Kansas City (MO) Star (8/19, Nozicak, Bernard, 549K) reports that “locally, 18 people have been arrested for homicides. Five have been charged at the state level, US Attorney Timothy Garrison said at a news conference Wednesday with...Barr.” The Star adds that “in an email after the news conference, Don Ledford, a spokesman for the US Attorney’s Office in Kansas City, clarified that seven defendants have been charged in six local homicides.” The Kansas City (MO) Northeast News (8/19, Hoover) reports, “U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri Tim Garrison said the agents were sent to support, not supplant, the local department. Kansas City has had 124 homicides so far this year. ‘In June Kansas City had more than three killings every four days,’ Garrison said. ‘Since our announcement on July the 8th, that rate has been reduced to fewer than three killings every five days.’” Garrison “said the clearance rate, the rate of homicides that are solved and referred to the prosecutor has increased from 34% on June 1 to 45% today.”

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Johnson, 632K) quotes Barr saying, “For us, LeGend is a symbol of the many hundreds of innocent lives that have been taken in the recent upsurge of crime in many of our cities this summer. His life mattered, his name should be remembered. And his senseless death, like that of other innocent victims during the recent surge of violent crime, should be unacceptable to all Americans.”

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Hughes, 632K) recounts that “after arresting more than 30 suspects in Milwaukee as a part of Operation Legend, federal investigators have filed federal gun and drug charges against 11 people,” and adds “the program has come under scrutiny after unmarked federal agents in Portland, Oregon, arrested protesters of police brutality without recording their detention.” However, “Barr and Matthew Krueger, the US attorney for Wisconsin’s Eastern District, have maintained that federal agents sent under Operation Legend have focused on violent crime and not protests.”

The Memphis (TN) Commercial Appeal (8/19, Kennedy, 338K) reports, “Seven people have been arrested in Memphis and charged with federal crimes as the result of Operation LeGend, U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr said Wednesday.” In Memphis, “one person was charged with possessing a firearm while being in the United States unlawfully. Two individuals were charged

with using a controlled substance and possessing a firearm as well as making 'a material false statement when acquiring a firearm from a Federal Firearms Licensee.' One person, who resides in Memphis, was charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in an out-of-district federal case. Two cases remain under seal, but the Department of Justice said that one individual has been charged with bank robbery and two individuals were charged with theft from a Federal Firearms Licensee."

The Detroit News (8/19, Hunter, 825K) reports Barr "announced Wednesday they've charged 22 people with felonies in Detroit under Operation Legend, a multi-jurisdictional initiative launched last month to fight violent crime." The federal charges "include two people charged with carjacking, 14 charged with being felons in possession of firearms, and two charged with receiving firearms while under indictment." Breitbart (8/19, Caplan, 673K) and Townhall (8/19, Pavlich, 177K), among other news outlets, also report the story.

Among local television outlets posting news of Operation LeGend on their websites are KSHB-TV Kansas City, MO (8/19, White, 90K), KMOV-TV St. Louis (8/19, 362K), WEWS-TV Cleveland (8/19, Scofield), WKYC-TV Cleveland (8/19, Carey, 223K), WDAF-TV Kansas City, MO (8/19, O'Brien, 242K), and WFLD-TV Chicago (8/19, Ewing, 42K).

FBI Helping Portland, Oregon Police Probe Protest Bombing. The Oregonian (8/19, Ryan, Rambo, 1M) reports, "Federal authorities are helping Portland police investigate after an explosive device was thrown at protesters and media members earlier this month in Laurelhurst Park." Portland police "on Tuesday said the FBI is assisting in their investigation into the Aug. 8 incident. The agency also said it had received an unexploded device that will be sent for forensic analysis." The Oregonian adds, "Video footage of the incident shows an explosive device being thrown at protesters and some members of the press as a small group gathered in the park after protesters were largely dispersed by police. The video didn't show who tossed the three devices – two of which detonated. No one was hurt."

The Portland (OR) Tribune (8/19, Redden, 92K) reports, "In a Tuesday afternoon press release, the Portland Police Bureau said a person named as a suspect on social media has contacted them, but no eye witnesses have come forward to help with the investigation. Police said the possible suspect, Louis Garnck Fernbaugh, has a lawyer and has not made a statement. Although police have now obtained an unexploded device taken from the scene, that is apparently not enough for an arrest. 'Mr. Fernbaugh has not been cleared at this time and unless a witness, who was actually present, comes forward to investigators connecting him directly to the crime, he will not be arrested,' police said in the Aug. 18 statement. According to police, the FBI is now assisting with the investigation."

Portland Protesters Set Fire Inside County Building. The Washington Post (8/19, Shepherd, 14.2M) reports, "A crowd of protesters marched to a county building in southeast Portland, Ore., Tuesday night, where a handful of people in masks and all-black outfits threw rocks through the windows and lit a small fire inside, marking the 83rd night of protests in Portland that have led to millions of dollars in damages to city property, officials said." The fires "inside the building remained relatively small, leaving behind scorched curtains and piles of ash on desks near the shattered windows." According to officials, "the flames did not burn for long, but they grew large enough to set off alarms and trigger the sprinkler system."

Suspect in Portland Truck Attack Has Lengthy Criminal Record. The New York Post (8/19, Golding, Eustachewich, 4.57M) reports, "A Black Lives Matter protester wanted for allegedly knocking out a driver in Portland has a lengthy rap sheet in Oregon, including charges of domestic assault and theft, records show." Marquise Love has been "jailed at least seven times over the past eight years in Washington County, the sheriff's office there said." Love has faced charges ranging from domestic assault and domestic harassment, to criminal trespass, and driving offenses.

FBI Seeks Two In Connection To Federal Property Damage In Raleigh, North Carolina During May Protests. WNCN-TV

Raleigh-Durham, NC (8/19) reports from Raleigh, North Carolina, "The FBI is asking for the public's help identifying two people who may have information about damage to two federal buildings during the violence in downtown Raleigh on May 31. Both the Terry Sanford Federal Building, located at 310 New Bern Ave., and the Century Station Federal Building, located at 300 Fayetteville St., sustained what the FBI said was 'significant damage' the night of May 31 from a number of suspects." The buildings "suffered broken windows and were vandalized with graffiti with the damage totaling \$11,000, the FBI said. On Tuesday, the FBI released images of two people who may have information on the vandalism."

WRAL-TV Raleigh, NC (8/19, 338K) reports, "Protests in downtown Raleigh in the wake of George Floyd's death in police custody in Minnesota days earlier escalated into riots on May 30 and May 31. Businesses were vandalized and looted, and numerous fires were set downtown. Law enforcement deployed tear gas and fired rubber bullets to disperse the crowds. The FBI and the Federal Protective Service division of the Department of Homeland Security said a woman and a man seen in footage from numerous security cameras downtown on May 31 may have information about the damage to the two federal buildings."

Rhode Island Man Charged In Burning Of Police Cruiser. The Cranston (RI) Patch (8/19, Arnold, 1 03M) reports, "A 30-year-old Cranston man was arrested on Tuesday and charged for his involvement in the burning and destruction of a Providence police cruiser during a night of heavy protesting and looting in early June, the U.S. District Attorney for Rhode Island announced on Wednesday." Nicholas L. Scaglione "was one of two Rhode Island men arrested and charged after a federal complaint was filed in conjunction with malicious destruction of vehicle by fire. His arrest comes after Luis Joel Sierra, 34, Providence, was arrested on a federal complaint and charged with the same offense last week. According to a news release, a joint investigation between the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Providence Police and the U.S. Attorney's Office determined that Sierra set a Providence police vehicle on fire by leaning inside the cruiser and igniting the blaze with lighter fluid."

Air Force Airman Charged In Utah Police Car Arson During May Protests. The Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner (8/19, Shenefelt, 91K) reports from West Haven, Utah, "The FBI arrested a Hill Air Force Base airman at his home in West Haven on Wednesday on accusations that he helped destroy a police car during protests in Salt Lake City." The Standard-Examiner adds, "An indictment in U.S. District Court charged Larry Raynold Williams Jr., 22, with arson in the destruction of a patrol car during protests May 30. Williams is the fifth person to be charged in the arson case, the FBI said Wednesday afternoon in a press release. The arrest was made by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. The investigation was helped by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Hill, the release said."

KTVX-TV Salt Lake City (8/19, Karalis) reports that Williams "was arrested Wednesday by the FBI and members of its Joint Terrorism Task Force with the assistance of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations." KTVX-TV adds, "The arson occurred during the riots in Salt Lake City on May 30 after a peaceful protest downtown turned violent. A Salt Lake City police officer was driving her police vehicle and became boxed-in by surrounding protestors. The officer was able to flee from her patrol car which was then overturned, vandalized, and set on fire. Video footage from the event shows individual rioters using fire and explosives to damage and destroy the vehicle."

Violent Protests Estimated To Have Claimed Lives Of 30 Victims. The Federalist (8/19, Davidson, 126K) reports, "An estimated 30 people have died after supposedly 'peaceful' protests erupted across the nation after George Floyd's death on May 25." The deaths have come under "mayhem" that includes "looting, violence, arson, vandalism, and damage to public property." According to the article, "a majority of their deaths were caused by shootings, but a select few were caused by being hit or dragged by cars."

"Satanist" Former Soldier Sentenced In Kansas Bomb Plot. The AP (8/19, Hanna) reports from Topeka, Kansas, "An ex-soldier described by prosecutors as a Satanist and linked to a neo-Nazi group was sentenced Wednesday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for distributing information through social media about building a bomb and making napalm." The AP adds that US District Judge Daniel Crabtree "rejected a request from Jarrett William Smith's attorney for a lenient sentence of 15 months in prison followed by three years of supervised probation. Federal law called for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, but sentencing guidelines said the presumed punishment for a first-time offender like Smith was 2 1/2 years to a little over three years in prison." Judge Crabtree "said he was surprised that federal sentencing guidelines called for such a 'low' prison sentence for 'troubling and serious' criminal behavior."

Federal Prosecutors Seeking Ten-Year Sentence For Former Indiana Woman In ISIS Financing Case. WBND-TV South Bend, IN (8/19, Hudson) reports, "The United States Attorney's Office is recommending a ten year sentence for former Elkhart resident Samantha Elhassani's conviction for financing terrorism. Elhassani pleaded guilty to financing terrorism in November 2019." WBND-TV adds, "In her plea agreement, Elhassani admitted to helping her husband and his brother join ISIS by taking two trips to Hong Kong to deposit more than \$30,000 in gold and cash in a safe deposit box. She admitted to melting down gold to make it look like jewelry so it wouldn't be disclosed on customs forms. Elhassani is facing a maximum of 10 years in prison, life probation and a \$250,000 fine."

The Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune (8/20, Kukulka, 1.8M) reports, "When she pleaded guilty in November, Elhassani confirmed that when her husband, Moussa Elhassani, and his brother intended to join ISIS, she made three trips to Hong Kong between November 2014 and August 2015 transporting more than \$30,000 in cash, gold and precious stones. Those assets were intended to be used by ISIS, she said."

Former Army Soldier Sentenced For Distributing Bomb Information. The Horry (SC) Independent (8/19, 19K) reports, "A 24-year-old man from Conway was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison Wednesday for distributing instructions for making explosive devices over social media, U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister said in a news release." The

Independent adds, "Earlier this year, Jarrett William Smith admitted to sharing the information while he was a member of the U.S. Army. The 2014 Carolina Forest High School graduate pleaded guilty to two counts of distributing information related to explosives, destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction. After his time in prison, officials said, Smith will serve three years on supervised release." An FBI affidavit said that "the former Army private was suspected of giving out instructions on Facebook about building improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and discussing possible targets, including Antifa and a major news network headquarters."

US Drops Death Penalty Request Against ISIS "Beatles." The Washington Post (8/19, Nakashima, 14.2M) reports Attorney General William Barr has notified "the British government that the United States will drop its insistence on the death penalty for two admitted Islamic State members if British authorities promptly transfer evidence to aid their prosecution for suspected involvement in the executions of American, British and other foreign hostages in Syria." In a letter Tuesday to British Home Secretary Priti Patel, Barr said London has until Oct. 15 to provide assistance or the men would be transferred to the Iraqi government for prosecution in its justice system – which human rights activists say is tantamount to a death sentence." The case has been "tied up in litigation in Britain," as one of the men's mother has sued "to prevent the sharing of evidence – including voice analysis tying the men to the hostages and details about their path to Syria" in a capital case. Barr's concession "was seen as a possible means to break the impasse."

BBC News Online (UK) (8/19, 1.02M) reports the UK "has made clear that if the pair were sent to the controversial US military prison Guantanamo Bay – where suspects have been detained without trial – the UK would withhold intelligence."

The Telegraph (UK) (8/19, 956K) reports the DOJ "wants the UK to hand over intelligence on the two men, who have been stripped of their British citizenship, that would assist a prosecution." Washington is "seeking to try the pair in the Eastern District of Virginia."

The Washington Times (8/19, Mordock, 492K) also reports.

Former FBI Lawyer Pleads Guilty To Doctoring CIA Email In Carter Page Warrant. The AP (8/19, Tucker) reports that on Wednesday, Kevin Clinesmith, a former FBI lawyer, pleaded guilty "to altering a document related to the secret surveillance of a former Trump campaign adviser during the Russia investigation." Clinesmith pleaded "to a single false statement charge, admitting that he doctored an email that the FBI relied on" when it "sought court approval to eavesdrop on former Trump campaign aide Carter Page in 2017." Reuters (8/19, Lynch) reports Clinesmith "admitted to doctoring a CIA email the FBI used in 2017," but said, "At the time I believed that the information I was providing in the email was accurate," though "I am agreeing that the information I inserted into the email was not originally there, and I inserted that information."

Politico (8/19, Gerstein, Cheney, 4.29M) notes the judge asked Clinesmith, "In other words, you agree you intentionally altered the email to include information that was not originally in the email?" Clinesmith replied, "Yes, your honor." The deal with Clinesmith "does not call for him to provide ongoing cooperation with prosecutors, although he did agree to be debriefed by FBI personnel working on a review of the law enforcement agency's filings with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court." The Washington Times (8/19, Mordock, 492K) recounts "US District Judge James Boasberg accepted the government's recommendation not to detain Clinesmith ahead of his sentencing, but did require him to surrender his passport and imposed travel restrictions."

USA Today (8/19, Phillips, Johnson, 10.31M) points out "the case against Clinesmith is the first to be brought by federal prosecutor John Durham, appointed last year by Attorney General William Barr to review the origins of the FBI's investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 election." The New York Times (8/19, Savage, 18.61M) reports the Senate Intelligence Committee, "after its own three-year investigation that maintained a broader counterintelligence focus, built on those findings this week with a bipartisan report laying out an extensive web of contacts between Trump campaign advisers and Russian officials."

The Washington Examiner (8/19, Dunleavy, 448K) says Clinesmith "claimed in early 2017 that Page was 'not a source' for the CIA when the CIA had actually told the bureau on multiple occasions that Page was indeed an operational contact for them." Durham "submitted a five-page filing to the federal court on Friday, noting Clinesmith was being charged under 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(3) for 'False Statements.'"

The Washington Post (8/19, Zapotosky, Marimow, 14.2M) reports that "with the 2020 election approaching, Durham's probe has become the subject of intense partisan fights." Republicans "are hopeful the prosecutor will bring cases against higher level Justice Department or FBI officials who worked during the Obama administration, and validate their critiques of the Russia probe," while Democrats "fear Durham's exercise is a politically motivated attempt to undercut an investigation that dogged

Trump's campaign and presidency, and they fear Barr might orchestrate a late revelation of his findings and alter the presidential race."

Fox News (8/19, Singman, 27.59M), Fox News (8/19, Halon, 27.59M), The Hill (8/19, Moreno, 2.98M), CBS News (8/19, Hymes, 3.68M), Newsweek (8/19, Grzeszczak, 1.53M), Law360 (8/19, Subscription Publication, 8K), the Daily Caller (8/19, Ross, 716K) and Townhall (8/19, Pavlich, 177K), among other news outlets, also report the story.

NYTimes Analysis: Report Raises Questions About Trump's Truthfulness With Mueller Team. The New York Times (8/19, Barnes, 18.61M) reports in an analysis that the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on Russian election interference "made a startling conclusion endorsed by both Republicans and Democrats: Donald J. Trump knew of and discussed stolen Democratic emails at critical points late in his 2016 presidential campaign." The panel "rejected Mr. Trump's statement to prosecutors investigating Russia's interference that he did not recall conversations with his longtime friend Roger J. Stone Jr. about the emails, which were later released by WikiLeaks." The report "detailed even more of the president's conversations with Mr. Stone than were previously known, renewing questions about whether Mr. Trump was truthful with investigators for the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, or misled them, much as prosecutors convinced jurors that Mr. Stone himself misled congressional investigators about his efforts to contact WikiLeaks."

The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Volz, Cullison, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) says the report found fault with the FBI's handling of the investigation, writing that "many of the dossier's specific allegations about the activities of individuals are uncorroborated" and that methods detailed fall short of US intelligence standards.

Report Says Manafort Pushed Narrative On Election Interference That Has Persisted Since. The Washington Post (8/19, Helderman, Hamburger, 14.2M) reports that according to the report, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort "began quickly working with a Russian employee based in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv on a counternarrative – that it was the Ukrainians who were actually interfering in the U.S. election, not Russia, and that they were framing Manafort to help the Democrats." The claim "has persisted ever since, even after U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials said it had no merit." The narrative "has been embraced by Trump's allies in conservative media and in Congress. It was touted on the right during Trump's impeachment last year and has carried into the present as the backdrop to an ongoing GOP effort to use Ukraine to attack Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden."

The Washington Post (8/19, Blake, 14.2M) writes separately that the Senate Intelligence Committee's report "flatly labeled" Manafort as what it called "Russian intelligence officer." Not only does "the report say Manafort was in close and increasing contact with a Russian intelligence officer, but it flatly raises the possibility that both were involved in the centerpiece of Russia's efforts: the hacked emails." The report says "some evidence suggests Kilimnik may be connected to the [Russian] GRU hack-and-leak operation," though it's based on "a body of fragmentary information."

WSJournal, WPost/NYTimes Differ On Senate Report. A Wall Street Journal (8/19, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) editorial says supporters of the claim that President Trump's campaign colluded with Russia are using the absence of evidence in the Senate Intelligence Committee's final report on Russian interference in the 2016 election to revisit their allegations. The Journal calls the collusion accusations a political dirty trick, the origins of which will be revealed by US Attorney John Durham's investigation.

A Washington Post (8/19, 14.2M) editorial takes a decidedly different view of the report. The Post calls the committee's findings "explosive," and argues that the report and Trump's reaction to it "leave little doubt that Mr. Trump will welcome any aid Moscow provides." A New York Times (8/19, 18.61M) editorial says the report "shows clear coordination between Russians and the Trump campaign, though there is no evidence of an explicit agreement." The evidence "suggests Mr. Trump knew this at the time. Whether or not it can be proved that he ordered this interference or violated the law in doing so, the fact remains that neither he nor anyone else in his campaign alerted federal law-enforcement authorities, as any loyal American should have." The Times concludes, "There's no way to sugarcoat it. In less than three months, the American people could re-elect a man who received a foreign government's help to win one election and has shown neither remorse nor reservations about doing so again."

The Washington Post (8/19, 14.2M) columnist Eric Lipton writes that the flaws of the Steele dossier, "however, don't preoccupy the Senate report, which documents contacts between Trump aides and Russians." Lipton argues the report represents "nearly 1,000 pages of detail on all the ways that the so-called Russia collusion hoax was a bona fide story"

Former State Department Official Says He Destroyed Records At Steele's Request. The Daily Caller (8/19, Ross, 716K) reports that according to a Senate report released Tuesday, former State Department official Jonathan Winer "told the Senate Intelligence Committee he destroyed records in January 2017 at the request of former British spy Christopher Steele." Winer, "who served as special envoy to Libya through early 2017, was Steele's contact at the State Department." According to the report, Winer "disclosed that he destroyed reports that Steele had sent him over the years." The report says,

"After Steele's memos were published in the press in January 2017, Steele asked Winer to make note of having them, then either destroy all the earlier reports Steele had sent the Department of State or return them to Steele, out of concern that someone would be able to reconstruct his source network." The report quotes Winer saying, "So I destroyed them, and I basically destroyed all the correspondence I had with him."

Appeals Court Grants Stone's Request To Dismiss Conviction Appeal. The Washington Examiner (8/19, Leonardi, 448K) reports on Wednesday, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit "approved a request made by Stone to dismiss his appeal of a criminal conviction after President Trump fully commuted his sentence last month, preventing him from being required to report to prison." The court document read, "Upon consideration of appellant's unopposed motion to dismiss this appeal and the affidavit in support thereof, it is ORDERED that the motion be granted and this case dismissed."

Warner: US Election Requires "Well-Educated Electorate About Russian Tactics." In an interview with Public Radio International (8/19, 28K), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA) discusses the Senate Intelligence Committee's "fifth and final volume of its report on Russian interference...and its lessons for 2020." Warner says "clearly, there were more contacts, connections than had been previously reported," but that "what worries me the most is that we're now 70-plus days away from another election." Warner adds, "10 days ago, the American intelligence community said Russia will be back" and that other nations including China and Iran "also trying to interfere in our elections." Warner told PRI, "My job now is to keep the pressure on the intelligence community to become even more forthcoming with more information, more names about what we've learned so that we don't repeat the mistake of 2016."

Evanina Warns Of Cyber Threats In Extended Vote Counting Period. Bloomberg (8/19, Martin, Strohm, 4.73M) reports US national security officials "don't believe the outcome of the presidential election will be determined right away, giving foreign adversaries like Russia more time to interfere and sow doubt about the outcome, America's top election security official warned." NCSC Director William Evanina "said Wednesday that the country is in for a 'rocky' several weeks before the Nov. 3 vote." However, he "said his biggest concern is the likely influence campaigns expected after the election, when the race may be deadlocked and results trickle in due to mail-in ballots." Speaking online to the US Chamber of Commerce, Evanina said, "We need to prepare as a nation that the election will not be decided on November 3," citing his worry about election interference, ransomware attacks, cyberattacks, and "the inability of people to vote because of cyber penetrations and ransomware." The US has tracked "foreign adversaries doing digital surveillance of infrastructure that's not necessarily germane to elections but could have an impact on the results, Evanina said."

FBI Helping Probe Murder Of Kentucky Girl And Her Father. The Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal (8/19, Kachmar, 368K) reports, "The FBI is helping Louisville Metro Police investigate the killing of a 3-year-old and her father at his home in the Jacobs neighborhood, federal officials said." The Courier-Journal adds, "LMPD, which is leading the investigation, has released scant details about the murders of Trinity Randolph and 21-year-old Brandon Waddles. They were at Waddles' family home on Kahlert Avenue in southern Louisville when they were shot multiple times and died in the early afternoon on Aug. 14. Trinity was playing in her 'Frozen' playhouse when she was killed, family members said. LMPD hasn't said whether there are any suspects and hasn't disclosed any information about the circumstances of the killings. 'We're helping (LMPD) in any way they ask,' FBI spokesman Tim Beam said."

FBI Releases New Details On Remains Recovered In Kentucky. WLKY-TV Louisville, KY (8/19, Team, 79K) reports from Louisville, Kentucky, "The FBI has given new details on remains that were found in Nelson County in July in the days leading up to the federal agency announcing it was taking over the investigation into the disappearance of Crystal Rogers." According to WLKY-TV, "The remains were recovered July 24 near the border of Nelson and Washington counties. Those remains were then sent to the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia, for testing. According to an update from an FBI spokesperson, the initial findings on the remains include: they were those of a female, but several measurements fall within those of males. They said males cannot yet be excluded."

WHAS-TV Louisville, KY (8/19, McAlister, 99K) reports, "In a one on one interview, FBI Louisville's Assistant Special Agent in Charge Brian Jones said the agency has collected a lot of evidence in the Crystal Rogers investigation over the last two weeks. 'We did collect a substantial amount of evidence during the search warrants that we hope will lead to a conclusion in this investigation,' Jones said." The FBI "announced they were taking the lead in the Rogers' case in early August, however Jones said they have been working on the case much longer. 'For the past year, we've had a number of agents working nonstop on this case. That's all been behind the scenes. Now, it's in the open,' Jones said. Jones said the FBI has had around

75 agents and investigators from partner agencies in Nelson County executing search warrants and following up on interviews. He said the agency is working in partnership with Kentucky State Police and the IRS."

US Charges Michigan man With Coronavirus Fraud. The Detroit News (8/19, Snell, 825K) reports, "A Southfield man splurged on a rare, \$44,500 Rolex watch during a pawn shop binge bankrolled with federal unemployment money that was supposed to help workers endure the COVID-19 pandemic, prosecutors said Wednesday." Samuel Baker, 37, "was involved in an unemployment insurance scheme that defrauded Michigan, Pennsylvania and the federal government out of approximately \$200,000, prosecutors said in unsealing a 16-page complaint. That number could increase due to ongoing investigation." Federal prosecutors said that in May, "Baker started filing fraudulent unemployment insurance claims that utilized phony Social Security numbers and fake driver's licenses. Some of the money was linked to the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, which provided unemployed workers an extra \$600 per week earlier this year."

Two Sentenced In North Carolina Corruption Probe. The Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/19, Morrill, Alexander, 470K) reports, "Republican Robin Hayes, a former congressman and elder statesman of North Carolina's GOP, was sentenced to a year's probation and a \$9,500 fine Wednesday for his role in one of the state's largest public corruption scandals." Hayes, "a former N.C. Republican Party chairman, stood in a Charlotte courtroom as he was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Max Cogburn. He faced up to six months in prison, though prosecutors and defense lawyers recommended probation." Hayes, 75, "was one of four men indicted in 2019 on multiple charges in a sweeping federal bribery case. All were accused of bribing Republican state Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey with \$2 million in campaign contributions in an attempt to get him to remove the department official responsible for regulating one of Lindberg's companies."

The Charlotte (NC) Observer (8/19, Gordon, Alexander, 470K) reports, "Greg Lindberg, the billionaire businessman at the heart of one of North Carolina's worst government corruption scandals, will spend more than seven years in prison, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in Charlotte." US District Judge Max Cogburn "also ordered Lindberg to pay a \$35,000 fine and placed him on three years' probation for his scheme to bribe Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey with up to \$2 million in campaign contributions. Eventually, Lindberg, one of the state's largest political donors who wrote checks to both parties, funneled \$250,000 earmarked for Causey through the state Republican Party, an illicit transaction handled by the party's chairman, former Republican congressman Robin Hayes of Concord." Lindberg "received seven years and three months for each of two corruption counts of which he was convicted in March. The sentences will run concurrently. Lindberg will also serve three years of probation after his release."

Attorneys For Chicago Alderman Challenge Evidence In Bribery Probe. The Chicago Tribune (8/19, Meisner, 2.65M) reports, "After months on the back burner, the bribery case against Chicago Ald. Edward Burke is expected to heat up Thursday when his lawyers file long-awaited motions challenging the government's wiretaps and other evidence. How much of the material will be made public, however, remains to be seen." The Tribune adds, "In a filing Tuesday, Burke's attorneys asked U.S. District Judge Robert Dow for permission to redact key portions of their motions or file them as sealed exhibits. Among the protected material, according to Burke's attorneys, are some details of the government's 87-page Title III wiretap application that allowed the FBI to tap Burke's cellphone. The motions will also include discussions of witness statements and other sensitive evidence that should be kept from public view, according to Burke's attorneys, though the entirety of the motions are not expected to be kept from the public."

FBI Probing Fundraising At Firm Linked To Bannon, Wengui. The Wall Street Journal (8/19, Spegele, Hua, Viswanatha, Subscription Publication, 7.57M) reports that federal and New York authorities are investigating a media firm linked to former Trump adviser Steve Bannon and exiled Chinese businessman Guo Wengui after it raised more than \$300 million in a private offering this spring. The FBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission are investigating whether GTV Media or associates of Guo violated securities laws, while the New York state attorney general's office is also examining the firm.

FBI Launches Election Messaging Campaign In California. My News LA (CA) (8/19) reports, "With fewer than 80 days to go until Election Day on Nov. 3, the FBI in Los Angeles has launched a public awareness campaign about election security at [fbi.gov](https://www.fbi.gov) and across the agency's social media platforms. The goal is to increase public awareness about threats to the upcoming election and to inform Americans how they can help the FBI ensure security. The threats include crimes the FBI has been investigating for decades, including campaign finance crimes, voter/ballot fraud, civil rights violations, and unique cyber threats targeting the election process. 'In these uncertain times, the FBI remains steadfast in its efforts to protect

and defend the United States and its people from election interference by criminals operating from near or far, at the ballot box or via cyber space,' said John F. Bennett, the acting assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office."

FBI Twitter Account Linked To Files On "Protocols Of Elders Of Zion." The [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) (8/19, Burack, 9K) reports, "An official FBI Twitter account drew criticism for tweeting a link to a 139-page selection of the bureau's files on 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,' the infamously anti-Semitic early 20th century text that accuses Jews of world domination." The JTA adds, "The FBI Records Vault sent the tweet on Wednesday afternoon without context, and some Twitter users took it as a promotion of the message in the 'Protocols.' However, the Twitter account regularly tweets declassified archival FBI documents." According to the JTA, "The files in the link include different copies of the 'Protocols' text, which claims it is 'Proof that Communism is a Jewish world plot to enslave the gentiles and to seize power during the resulting chaos,' as well as letters to former FBI head J. Edgar Hoover about it."

FBI Houston Explains How Bank Robbers Are Nicknamed. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/19, Gowdy, 730K) reports, "When the Chron team received an email about the 'baby bib bandit' who robbed an armored car in Houston, we had a very important question: Who comes up with these names? We were so curious to know, we reached out to the Federal Bureau of Investigation directly to find out. 'The nicknaming is a process that's a team effort,' an FBI spokesperson said. 'We take a look at the picture of the subject and the details of the robbery, and we just try to come up with something catchy that we think the public will remember.'" The Chronicle adds, "The names – which can take anywhere from five minutes to an hour to come up with – are uniquely selected based on the characteristics such as physical features, clothing and disguises, and modus operandi."

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Please direct comments and concerns to FBIC@BulletinIntelligence.com.

Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 7:41 AM
To: Winston, Alvin M. (CV) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI apologizes for tweeting an anti-Semitic document - The Washington Post

b6
b7C
b7E

-
----- Forwarded message -----

From: Brian Hale [REDACTED]
Date: Aug 20, 2020 6:35 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - FBI apologizes for tweeting an anti-Semitic document - The Washington Post
To: "Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED]
Cc:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/08/20/fbi-apology-twitter-anti-semitism/>

Sent from my iPhone

From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:05 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RE: ADL "Protocols" Message

b6
b7C

Thanks. We are working to prevent this from happening again obviously.

-
On Aug 20, 2020 8:58 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Will keep you advised as I hear anything. As discussed, the Bu rapid response was very well received.

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

ADL
American Jewish
Defenders of Liberty



From: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ADL "Protocols" Message

b6
b7C
b7E

Thanks for sharing this. Ugh. We will work the matter.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:33 PM
To: Hale, Brian Patrick (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - ADL "Protocols" Message

b6
b7C
b7E

Brian –

As discussed; issue is getting growing play nationally. The below is the ADL internal directions with a link to our external tweet. Bureau may want to get ahead of this as more radical entities respond. Here if you need anything.

RDs and regional staff:

Many of you have received public inquiries today about a tweet from the FBI Records Vault that disseminated a link labeled, "Protocols of the Elders of Zion." Since there's been widespread confusion about the FBI's motives for doing this, and concern that in doing so the FBI is spreading an antisemitic text, we published the following explainer on our website, which we will also be tweeting out shortly.

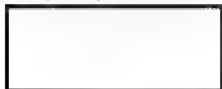
<https://www.adl.org/news/article/the-fbi-shared-antisemitic-protocols-on-twitter>

Our law enforcement team is reaching out to the FBI to notify them about concerns that the tweet should have included more context about "The Protocols."

Feel free to share this link with anyone who asks about the FBI tweet.



b6
b7C



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 5:00 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] FBI Public Affairs Director's AM News Briefing Friday, August 21, 2020
Attachments: FBIDirBriefing200821.doc

b7E

This morning's Director's AM News Briefing is attached.

Full-text Links: Clicking the hypertext links in our write-ups will take you to the newspapers' original full-text articles.

Interactive Table of Contents: Clicking a page number on the table of contents page will take you directly to that story.

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FBI PUBLIC AFFAIRS – DIRECTOR’S AM NEWS BRIEFING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020 5:00 AM EDT

Bannon Pleads Not Guilty To Charges Stemming From Fundraising For Private Border Wall.

As os (8/20, Savitsky, 521K) reports “former Trump administration chief strategist Steve Bannon pleaded not guilty on Thursday after being indicted and taken into custody in New York on federal fraud charges.” A federal judge “agreed to release Bannon on a \$5 million bond” after the former Trump aide, “along with three others, allegedly defrauded donors out of hundreds of thousands of dollars for their own profit with a crowdfunding campaign called ‘We Build the Wall’ that raked in over \$25 million.”

All three major network newscasts led with the story last night. NBC Nightly News (8/20, lead story, 3:05, Holt, 5.6M) reported, “Add another big name to the string of former Trump insiders who have run afoul of the law.” NBC went on to show its reporter Geoff Bennett telling President Trump, “Respectfully, sir, it’s not just Steve Bannon. It’s Roger Stone, it’s Michael Flynn, it’s Rick Gates, Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen. What’s it say about your judgment that these are the kind of people that you have?” Trump was shown replying, “Well, I have no idea.” On ABC World News Tonight (8/20, lead story, 3:55, Muir, 6.79M), Jonathan Karl also said “this is just the latest in a long list of close Trump associates who have faced criminal charges, including his former personal lawyer, his campaign chairman, his first political adviser, his national security adviser. Many people very close to the President at top echelons facing criminal charges.” The CBS Evening News (8/20, lead story, 4:00, O’Donnell, 4.17M) indicated Bannon “was once described as the President’s ideological soulmate,” and that “he’s now the sixth close associate of Mr. Trump to be criminally charged by the President’s over Department of Justice.”

Along similar lines, the AP (8/20, Neumeister, Long, Colvin) recounts Bannon, who was “pulled from a luxury yacht and arrested,” is “the latest in a long list of Trump allies to be charged with a crime.” USA Today (8/20, Johnson, 10.31M) reports that since Trump “took office in 2017, seven former advisers who served at the White House or worked in the campaign have been swept up in criminal prosecutions.” Likewise, the Los Angeles Times (8/20, Stokols, 4.64M) says “Bannon becomes the seventh prominent Trump associate to be charged with a federal crime.”

The Washington Times (8/20, Muñoz, Mordock, 492K) reports “Bannon is a former investment banker who rose to prominence as executive chairman of Breitbart News” and “was appointed chief executive of the Trump campaign in late 2016 before serving as chief White House strategist during the early months of the administration.” Bannon “left in August 2017 and fell out with Mr. Trump months later, after a tell-all book by Michael Wolff quoted Mr. Bannon as saying unflattering things about the administration and Mr. Trump’s family.” The Times adds, “Dubbed ‘Sloppy Steve’ by the president, Mr. Bannon went on to support conservative populist movements across the globe, notably in Italy.”

Politico (8/20, Gerstein, Schreckinger, Cheney, 4.29M) reports “the stunning indictment was returned Monday and unsealed Thursday – four days before the opening of the Republican National Convention – a move likely to provoke the president, who has accused opponents of trying to create distractions around the quadrennial nominating event.”

The New York Times (8/20, 18.61M) reports that the indictment charges that “with a wounded Air Force veteran and a Florida venture capitalist, Mr. Bannon conspired to cheat hundreds of thousands of donors by falsely promising that their money had been set aside exclusively toward building a new section of border wall.” The Times adds that prosecutors “said that after siphoning money from the project, Mr. Bannon plowed nearly \$1 million into paying off his personal expenses.”

The Washington Post (8/20, Zapotosky, Dawsey, Helderman, 14.2M) reports that “in a news release, prosecutors said Bannon and another organizer, Air Force veteran Brian Kolfage, lied when they claimed they would not take any compensation as part of the campaign, called ‘We Build the Wall.’” According the Post, Bannon, “a law enforcement official said, was taken into custody off the coast of Westbrook, Conn., while aboard a 150-foot yacht called the Lady May owned by a friend and business associate, Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui – a vocal, online critic of the Chinese government who was once close with that country’s intelligence service but is now wanted by authorities in Beijing on charges of fraud, blackmail and bribery.”

Fox News (8/20, Phillips, 27.59M) recounts on its website, “Bannon and the other defendants were each charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering,” with each count carrying “a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.” Bloomberg (8/20, Davis, Yaffe-Bellany, 4.73M), the New York Post (8/20, Feuerherd, Lapin 4.57M) The Hill (8/20, Neidig, 2.98M), McClatchy (8/20, Vockrodt, Shorman, Lowry, 19K), the Daily Caller (8/20, Ross, 7.16K), the Wall Street Journal (8/20, A1, Ramey, Ballhaus, Findell, Subscription Publication, 7.57M), the CNBC (8/20, Schwartz, 3.62M) website and Reuters (8/20, Lynch, Sullivan), among other news outlets, have more on Bannon’s arrest and the charges against him.

Trump "Feels Badly," Points Out He Had Previously Spoken Out Against Private Wall.

Reuters (8/20)

reports that the President told reporters that "he felt 'very badly' about the arrest of...Bannon but said he was not in touch with the former campaign aide and knew nothing about the organization involved in the case. ... 'I feel very badly. I haven't been dealing with him for a long period of time,' Trump said when asked about the case." Trump is quoted as saying, 'I haven't dealt with him at all now for years, literally years.'

During Trump's visit to Pennsylvania Thursday, WBRE-TV Wilkes-Barre, PA (8/20, 14K) also asked him about Bannon's indictment. Trump said, 'We have nothing to do with that. That was a project that was started with a group of people, but I know nothing about it other than I was against it. And as you know, I've spoken out against it previously and I didn't like the idea that they were building and I think that's a government project. We built almost 300 miles of wall.' To Politico (8/20, Choi, 4.29M), 'Trump distanced himself Thursday from...Bannon's efforts to crowdsource private funds for a border wall,' and to The Hill (8/20, Chalfant, 2.98M) he 'sought to distance himself from' his disgraced former aide.

Trump Organization Seeks To Distance Trump Jr. From Bannon Project. The Washington Post (8/20, Sonmez, 14.2M) reports the Trump Organization "sought to distance Donald Trump Jr. from Bannon, after reports resurfaced about a speech the president's son gave in New Mexico last year supporting the online crowdfunding campaign We Build the Wall." The Post adds that Trump Jr. 'gave a 15-minute speech in support of the project last year.' The Post adds that "reporters also pointed out Thursday that We Build the Wall's website featured a testimonial from the president's son praising the group as 'doing some wonderful things for an important issue.' Trump Organization spokeswoman Amanda Miller said in a statement, 'Don gave one speech at a single We Build the Wall event over a year ago with a group of angel moms and besides that, has no involvement with their organization. ... He never gave them permission to use him as a testimonial on their website and was unaware they included him as one until today's media reports about it.'

WPost: Actual Government-Built Wall A "Much Bigger Scam." The Washington Post (8/20, 14.2M) editorializes that 'the grift alleged is disgusting, if not surprising,' and "Bannon's alleged masterminding of the plot, to the extent there was any mastery involved, is particularly repugnant." The Post adds that "if the indictment is correct, this is a scam within a much, much bigger scam," as "we already know that a candidate for president of the United States orchestrated the same fraud, and continues to orchestrate it, to elevate himself to a high office – from which he can engage in plenty of self-dealing of his own. The only folks who walk away empty-handed? Those donors, and voters, gullible enough to believe that a wall is the answer to anything at all."

NYTimes Says Bannon's "Scheme" Was "Quintessentially Trumpian." In an editorial, the New York Times (8/20, 18.61M) finds "a measure of poetic justice in Thursday's news that...Bannon...arrested on a yacht on Long Island Sound and charged with defrauding hundreds of thousands of Mr. Trump's supporters." To the Times, "the scheme" behind the charges against Bannon "is also quintessentially Trumpian – a faithful copy of the president's knack for trading on the hopes of disaffected Americans. We Build the Wall, in other words, was basically a Trump tribute band," and "the plan itself was cribbed directly from Mr. Trump."

FBI Probing Media Company Deal Linked To Bannon.

HuffPost

(8/20, Papenfuss, 1.67M) reports, "Steve

Bannon's fraud indictment linked to fundraising for Donald Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall isn't his only legal headache. The Wall Street Journal reports that the FBI and Securities and Exchange Commission are also investigating a \$300 million investment offering for a planned media company tied to Bannon and fugitive Chinese businessman Guo Wengui." According to HuffPost, "On Wednesday, the Journal had reported that officials were probing the private offering to raise funds for GTV Media Group. Bannon is listed as GTV's director and Guo as its adviser and fundraiser in a company fundraising document the Journal viewed. Guo, a wanted fugitive in China, has been accused of bribery, fraud and money laundering, all of which he has denied." Investigators "are examining whether GTV Media or associates of Guo violated securities laws, according to the Journal's sources."

Federal Drug And Gun Charges Filed Against 11 During Operation Legend In Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (8/19, Hughes, 632K) reports, "After arresting more than 30 suspects in Milwaukee as a part of Operation Legend, federal investigators have filed federal gun and drug charges against 11" individuals. The article says the DEA is part of the operation. TIME (8/20, Hennigan, 18.47M) publishes a related article.

Barr Visits Cleveland To Tout Operation LeGend.

WKYC-TV

Cleveland (8/20, 223K) reports from

Cleveland, "New numbers show 32 people in Cleveland have been charged with federal crimes under 'Operation Legend' The program combines federal investigators working alongside state and local law enforcement to get criminals off the street." Attorney General Barr "was in town on Thursday to tout the program where federal investigators work alongside state and local law enforcement to get criminals off the street. Barr says this crackdown has nothing to do with politics or the social unrest in

May 'The primary purpose of government is to provide safety and the social justice issues and other things that people have could never take root or achieve anything if the streets are running in blood,' Barr told 3News' Tiffany Tarpley." US Attorney Justin Herdman "says of the 32 people that have been charged with federal crimes since the initiative began in Cleveland, 22 are accused of drug trafficking, nine of various firearms offenses, and another of carjacking."

FBI Seeks Information On July Kansas City Homicide.

KMBC-TV

Kansas City, MO (8/20, 205K)

reports from Kansas City, Missouri, "The FBI is seeking information in connection with a July 26 homicide in Kansas City, Missouri, and an additional reward is on the table." The FBI "is seeking information in connection with the July 26 murder of 30-year-old Shawn Ricks on the 3400 block of Indiana Avenue. Ricks was one of two people murdered in the early hours of July 26. Officers were called to 34th Street and Indiana Avenue just before 1:40 a.m. to investigate reports of a shooting. Ricks was found shot in the abdomen on the sidewalk. He was pronounced dead on the scene." The FBI "is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in this homicide, this is in addition to the \$25,000 offered by Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers."

WDAF-TV

Kansas City, MO (8/20, Dulle, 242K) reports, "The FBI is continuing to work with local law

enforcement to identify violent offenders within Kansas City as part of Operation LeGend and are relying on people in the community to come forward with information needed to bring those responsible for the death of Shawn Ricks to justice." KSHB-TV Kansas City, MO (8/20, Godburn, 90K) and WDAF-TV Kansas City, MO (8/20, McDowell, 242K) also report on their websites.

Trump Says Operation Legend Shows He Stands For "Safety And Security." On Twitter, President Trump on Thursday declared, "I STAND FOR LAW AND ORDER AND I TOOK ACTION! Operation LeGend has led to the arrest of over 1,000 criminals, including 90 killers, all while Sleepy Joe Biden and the Radical Left excuses violence and crime in their Democrat-run cities. I want safety & security, Joe allows CRIME!"

Airman Charged With Trying To Burn Police Car During Utah Protests. The Air Force Times (8/20, Losey, 165K) reports, "A security forces airman from Hill Air Force Base in Utah has been arrested by federal authorities and accused of burning a police car during a May 30 protest in downtown Salt Lake City." According to the Times, "Airman 1st Class Larry Raynold Williams Jr., 22, was arrested at his home Wednesday morning by the FBI and members of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Utah said in a release later that day. He faces a federal arson charge. He was charged with one count of using fire and explosive devices to damage a Salt Lake City Police Department patrol car. That car was flipped and burned by a group of protesters that day. Five people so far, including Williams, have been charged with burning that police car, Justice Department officials said."

Rioters Assault Officers During Attack On Federal Building in Portland. The Washington Post (8/20, Shepherd, 14.2M) reports that "several hundred protesters rallied around a federal building" that houses ICE offices in Portland on Wednesday night "and were met by local and federal police." The Post adds, "After some demonstrators broke windows at the facility, police eventually deployed tear gas to end the 84th consecutive night of protests in the city." According to the Post, "Early in the night on Wednesday, federal officers used pepper balls to push the crowd away from the federal building and moved the group down the street before retreating. Protesters then returned to the ICE building."

The AP (8/20) reports that rioters "spray painted windows on the building, broke several windows and shined laser lights at agents inside." The AP adds, "Clashes ensued, with protesters hurling rocks and bottles at agents who came out of the building and at police. ... Police arrested two people and several officers suffered minor injuries after they were hit with rocks, the Portland police statement said."

Chicago Mayor Defends Increased Police Presence Near Home. The Chicago Sun-Times (8/20, Spielman, 875K) reports Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot (D) on Thursday "defended the heavy police presence outside her Logan Square home, at a time when police officers are stretched to the limit, citing 'specific threats' made 'every single day' to 'my person, my wife and my home.'" Images "circulating online show dozens of officers guarding her home and her block with barricades in fortress-like fashion." Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown supported the mayor, saying, "These people embedded in these protests have shown us they're violent. They're violent in our downtown. They're violent in our neighborhoods. And they're violent at the mayor's house. We're sworn to protect people from violence and we're gonna do our job."

Police, Protesters Clash Outside Pittsburgh Mayor's Home. The Washington Post (8/20, Wolfrom Berman, 14.2M) reports, "Protesters clashed with police for the second consecutive night outside the Pittsburgh mayor's home on

Wednesday, resulting in one arrest and escalating tensions." The protests began "over the weekend when several plainclothes officers arrested 25-year-old protester Matthew Cartier and drove away in an unmarked van during Saturday's demonstration downtown." Mayor Bill Peduto (D) has "since denounced the police tactics deployed in Cartier's arrest," but a tweet "about the limitations of protesters' constitutional rights" has "sparked outrage and galvanized protesters to swarm his Point Breeze home for the past two nights, making Peduto the latest in a growing list of mayors and other public figures to see demonstrators gather at their residences during this summer of unrest bringing the movement essentially to their front doors."

Barr: DOJ Will Appeal Ruling, Seek Death Penalty For Tsarnaev. The AP (8/20, Balsamo, Richer) reports, "The Justice Department will seek to reinstate a death penalty for Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the man who was convicted of carrying out the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, Attorney General William Barr said Thursday." The AP adds, "In an interview with The Associated Press, Barr said the Justice Department would appeal the court's ruling last month that tossed Tsarnaev's death sentence and ordered a trial to determine whether he should be executed for the attack that killed three people and wounded more than 260 others. Barr said the Justice Department would take the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court. 'We will do whatever's necessary,' Barr said. 'We will take it up to the Supreme Court and we will continue to pursue the death penalty.'"

The Boston Herald (8/20, Cotter, 410K) reports that Barr said the department "will appeal the appeals court's ruling last month that threw out the death sentence for Tsarnaev and sent the case back to lower court for resentencing. The court at the time affirmed Tsarnaev's guilty convictions, so he will spend the rest of his life behind bars no matter what." The Herald adds, "In July U.S. Appeals Court of the First Circuit Judge Rogeriee Thompson vacated Tsarnaev's death penalty, saying the convicted bomber will have to face another jury to determine whether he'll ultimately be put to death."

The Washington Examiner (8/20, Dunleavy, 448K) reports that Judge Thompson "said in her ruling that Tsarnaev's trial 'did not meet the standard' of fairness guaranteed by the Constitution. She said Tsarnaev's new trial with a new jury will be 'strictly limited to what penalty Dzhokhar should get on the death-eligible counts.' Thompson said that the lower-court trial judge erred during the voir dire process under which possible jurors are questioned to ensure they can be impartial."

FBI Probing Bomb Threat At U Of Nebraska At Kearney. The Kearney (NE) Hub (8/20, Schmidt, 80K) reports from Kearney, Nebraska, "Activities kicking off the new school year at the University of Nebraska at Kearney aren't being affected following a bomb threat this morning." The Hub adds, "Around 10 a.m. the UNK main switchboard received a phone call from a digitized voice indicating suspicious packages were being delivered to campus. Todd Gottula, a UNK spokesperson, said the caller didn't identify specific locations. UNK's threat was one of several made to college campuses across the country, including institutions in the Big Ten Conference and Penn State University. UNK administrators worked with UNK Police, Kearney Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol and FBI, and based on similar situations across the country, determined the threat was not credible. UNK Police and KPD did a sweep of the Kearney campus and ensured it was safe."

Johnson Subpoenas Former State Department Official Linked To Steele Dossier. The Hill (8/20, Carney, 2.98M) cites "a source" who confirmed that Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson has subpoenaed former State Department official Jonathan Winer, who is "linked to the controversial research dossier about then-presidential candidate Donald Trump." Winer "is the first person to be subpoenaed by Johnson as part of a broad investigation spanning the transition between the Obama and Trump administrations including digging into the so-called Steele dossier."

WTimes Provides Examples Of Obama Administration Spying Before And After 2016 Election. Citing "government documents," the Washington Times (8/20, Scarborough, 492K) lists "six instances of Obama administration spying during and after the Nov. 8 election."

Former CIA Officer Accused Of Spying For China Called "Extreme Flight Risk." The AP (8/20, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu a former CIA officer and FBI contract linguist "accused of giving China classified information must remain detained because the trained spy is an 'extreme flight risk,' US prosecutors said." Alexander Yuk Ching Ma was "scheduled for a detention hearing Thursday," but a federal defender "asked for a postponement, saying an arranged phone call with his client from the Honolulu Federal Detention Center didn't happen as planned Wednesday." Assistant Federal Defender Craig Jerome "said he was only able to speak to Ma for about 10 minutes Thursday, which wasn't enough time to go over the allegations and prepare for a detention hearing." The hearing was rescheduled for next week.

Evanina Warns Of Post-Election Day Uncertainty. The AFF (8/20, McNamee) reports National Counterintelligence and Security Center Director William Evanina "said that external actors could use hacks like ransomware and

other cyberattacks against the infrastructure for delivering, counting and transmitting the votes, which includes the overburdened and understaffed post office and polling stations." Speaking in a virtual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Evanina warned that an expected surge in by-mail voting could very well leave the result of the contest between President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden, as well as numerous congressional contests, unresolved the day after the election." Evanina added, "We are in for a rocky 70-plus days coming up," and "need to prepare as a nation that the election will not be decided on November 3." Evanina also said he remains on guard for foreign interference during the campaign, especially from China, Russia and Iran."

Indictment Details Ruthless Rise Of New Gang In DC Suburbs. The Washington Post (8/20, Jouvenal, Weiner, 14.2M) reports on "a sweeping federal indictment brought Thursday" against "the Reckless Tigers, a gang that was unknown a decade ago but has metastasized into a potent criminal organization that reaches from Southern California to Northern Virginia." According to the Post, "Three have been charged with murder in connection with kidnapping and drug trafficking, among a group of seven charged Thursday with racketeering and other crimes. In all, nearly 30 associates have been charged federally in recent months in a sprawling years-long investigation that is among the largest gang probes in the D.C. area in recent years." David Nguyen "and several others pleaded guilty earlier this year to their involvement in the gang activity." The Post adds, "The Reckless Tigers cultivated a flashy image, splashed across Instagram and Twitter." An FBI agent "testified at a previous hearing that higher-level members wore robes from their preferred designer, Versace."

Four Arrested In Vietnam For Coronavirus PPE Scam Targeting US Buyers. Reuters (8/20) reports, "Vietnamese police have arrested four men accused of defrauding more than 5,000 Americans trying to buy COVID-19 protective equipment online out of nearly \$1 million, the Ministry of Public Security said on Thursday. The arrests of the four, aged between 22 and 36, were made following a joint investigation by the ministry and U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Homeland Security Investigations, the ministry said in a statement on its website." Reuters adds, "In March, the four began operating 110 websites that offered personal protection equipment (PPE), including hand sanitizers, masks and disinfectant wipes, and received money from the Americans via their Paypal accounts, the ministry said. The four never had the products offered on the websites and their victims never received what they paid for, the ministry said."

Rep. Chabot Claims Exoneration In FBI Probe. WKRC-TV Cincinnati (8/20, Pilcher, 161K) reports from Cincinnati, "The campaign of U.S. Rep. Steve Chabot now claims that the Federal Bureau of Investigation exonerated the campaign as well as the veteran congressman from any wrongdoing in the ongoing investigation into possible embezzlement by a former campaign official." According to WKRC-TV, "The letter, dated July 21, states that the investigation 'determined that Steve Chabot for Congress is a victim of the violation of law' and that property seized in the probe 'is traceable to proceeds of fraud committed by James Schwartz, Jr.' Schwartz (also known as Jamie Schwartz) is Chabot's former campaign manager who is under investigation for at least \$123,000 that went missing from Chabot's campaign." The investigation "started in August 2019, when the Federal Election Commission noticed the missing funds. A federal grand jury launched its own criminal investigation soon after, although charges have yet to be filed."

Ohio Nonprofit Pleads Not Guilty In Bribery Probe. The Cleveland Plain Dealer (8/20, Caniglia, 895K) reports, "A nonprofit that stashed tens of millions of dollars aimed at passing House Bill 6 – the focus of a massive federal bribery investigation – was summoned to court Thursday. An attorney entered a not guilty plea on behalf of Generation Now before Magistrate Judge Karen Litkovitz in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati." According to the Plain Dealer, "The nonprofit was indicted last month with former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and four allies on racketeering charges involving House Bill 6, the \$1.3 billion bailout involving a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. Generation Now had been summoned for an arraignment hearing earlier this month but no attorney appeared on its behalf. On Thursday, Robert Krapenc, an attorney for one of the others charged, Jeffrey Longstreth, entered the not-guilty plea."

US Charges Former Suburban Chicago School Chief With Looting Lunch Program For Needy. The AP (8/20) reports from Chicago, "Federal fraud charges have been filed against the operator of a suburban Chicago private school operator who is accused of looting hundreds of thousands of dollars from a school nutrition program. The charges filed against Pamela Strain, founder of Beacon Hill Preparatory Academy, allege she failed to report the fraudulent income to the IRS." The AP adds, "Defense attorney Michael Monico said Thursday the charges against Strain is expected to be resolved before trial. Her arraignment is set for Aug. 28."

The Chicago Tribune (8/20, Meisner, 2.65M) reports that Strain "was charged Wednesday in a two-count criminal information alleging she failed to report the fraudulent income from the child nutrition program to the IRS. The charges come

nearly three years after the Chicago Tribune detailed in a front-page story the federal investigation into Strain's small private school, which operated at various locations in the south suburbs before reopening in Lansing in 2016 under a new name Lighthouse Christian Academy." The Tribune adds, "An FBI search warrant made public in 2017 showed that Strain allegedly used her ill-gotten funds to pay for a lavish lifestyle, including her home and other properties, luxury cars, spas, salons and shopping sprees at stores such as Victoria's Secret and Macy's, the Tribune reported."

US Charges California Man As Ringleader Of Scheme To Defraud National Retailer. The Orange County (CA) Register (8/20, 546K) reports, "An Irvine man is accused of being the ringleader in a scheme that fraudulently obtained employee identification cards and discounts to buy millions of dollars worth of electronics from a national retailer, the Department of Justice announced Thursday." The OCR adds, "A dozen people took part in the scheme, according to a federal grand jury. Four of them – including the lead defendant, Abdallah Osseily, 34, of Irvine – were arrested Wednesday by the FBI. Three of the defendants were arraigned that day in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana and were ordered released on bond, authorities said. The fourth defendant was arrested in Arizona and appeared in Phoenix federal court. The other eight defendants will appear in federal court later." According to the OCR, "The defendants face 54 counts of various charges including conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, mail fraud and wire and bank fraud, according to the indictment."

FBI Criticized For Tweeting Link To Anti-Semitic Tract. The Washington Post (8/20, Peiser, 14.2M) reports, "For over a century, the fabricated text 'The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion' has advanced a persistent anti-Semitic trope: that Jews are plotting to take over the world. From Hitler to Henry Ford, rabid anti-Semites have long shared the notorious text. On Wednesday, an FBI Twitter account did the same. An account called FBI Records Vault tweeted out a link to a PDF containing the anti-Semitic tome as well as FBI documents related to it, with no other context, leaving critics baffled and outraged." The FBI later apologized and clarified that the account is automated and sends links to records that have been made public via Freedom of Information Act requests," but "outcry over the tweet continued after the mea culpa. In a statement, the Anti-Defamation League condemned the FBI for not noting that the documents are 'virulently anti-Semitic.'"

The Hill (8/20, Budryk, 2.98M) reports, "Despite the nature of the account, the tweet was widely criticized for lacking context. Groups that combat anti-Semitism note that the same tropes popularized by the 'Protocols' persist in modern canards such as the QAnon conspiracy theory. During her testimony during House impeachment proceedings, former White House national security official Fiona Hill compared conspiracy theories about Hungarian financier George Soros to the document. 'We have already received reports from many in the American Jewish community who are hurt by the irresponsible way this document was released,' the Anti-Defamation League said in a statement. 'We call on the FBI to correct this mistake now, and do better in the future.'"

Trump Says He Will Use Law Enforcement Agencies To Prevent Voter Fraud. The Washington Examiner (8/20, Leonardi, 448K) reports that in an interview with Fox News Hannity (8/20, 535K) Thursday, "President Trump said he would employ various law enforcement agencies during election voting to prevent fraud." Asked, "Are you going to have an ability to monitor, to avoid fraud, and cross-check whether or not these are registered voters," Trump said, "We're going to have everything. We're going to have sheriffs, and we're going to have law enforcement, and we're going to have, hopefully, US attorneys. And we're going to have everybody and attorney generals [sic]. But it's very hard. I mean, you have some of these states sending them out, like Nevada, where they don't even have to check the signatures, so anybody can sign it. New Jersey just sent it out, where the governor, as I understand it, just signed an executive order, didn't even go through the legislature to get it done. And nobody has ever heard of anything like this."

Trump tweeted Thursday night, "To get into the Democrat National Convention, you must have an ID card with a picture...Yet the Democrats refuse to do this when it come to your very important VOTE! Gee, I wonder WHY???"

Board Of Canvassers Investigating After 72% Of Detroit Absentee Ballot Counts Were Off. The Detroit News (8/20, Mauber, 825K) reports the board responsible for certifying election results in Wayne County, Michigan's largest county, 'is asking Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson's office to investigate after problems with tracking ballots in Detroit's primary, which one official described as a 'perfect storm.'" According to information presented to the Wayne County Board of Canvassers, 'counts for ballots in about 72% of Detroit's absentee voting precincts for the Aug. 4 primary election were out of balance without an explanation. ... The number of ballots tracked in precinct poll books did not match the number of ballots counted.' Jonathan Kinloch, "a Democrat and one of the canvassing board's four members" said the results weren't incorrect, but something went wrong in the process of tracking ballots precinct by precinct.

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Please direct comments and concerns to FBi@BulletinIntelligence.com.

[Redacted]
From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:02 PM
To: [Redacted] Scirel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [Redacted]
Subject: Vault Release - Active

b6
b7C

Good Afternoon

Please be advised the follow subject s are now active on the Vault

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E
b7C
b7E

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:53 PM

To: [Redacted] Scirel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [Redacted]
Subject: Vault Release for 8/19

Good Afternoon

Please be advised the following releases will be made active on the Vault at 1:00pm tomorrow, August 19, 2020.

Name	Interim/Final	Already Public	Standard FOIA or Litigation	Page Count	OPA Write-Up	Twitter	Category	FOIA Request Numbers	Requesters
Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion Part 01 of 01	Final	Yes	Standard FOIA	139	No	Yes	Frequently Requested	1459087-000 1459160-000 1459458-000 1442293-000	[Redacted]
Roxford Tugwell Part 01 of 01	Final	Yes	Standard FOIA	268	No	Yes	Frequently Requested	1450177-000 1467919-000	

b6
b7C

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

KIDS Vault POC
Information Management Division

On: [Redacted]

C: [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

From:

To:

Cc:

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C

Thx [redacted]

b6
b7C

On Aug 19, 2020 4:49 PM, [redacted] wrote:
Thank you, [redacted] Insight and edits are most welcome.

b6
b7C
b7E

Best,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

From:

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:47 PM

To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc:

Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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b7E

[redacted]

b6
b7C

I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

Thank you,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

From:

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc:

Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti Semitic hate literature/propaganda was publicly shared. See below //

Thoughts on providing a statement? [redacted]

b5

[redacted]

Thank you,

b6
b7C

//

Media inquiries:

- I'm a reporter with Heavy.com writing about the records vault today releasing a copy of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, along with some related correspondence that appears to include J. Edgar Hoover. The release, at least on Twitter, sparked a panic in some and concerns the bureau may have been hacked. Can anyone give us a comment or some context for the release of the document today?
- Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account (@FBIRecordsVault) shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," an infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
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[REDACTED]

b5
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b7C

Mike

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
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b7E

[REDACTED]

b5

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 4:54 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

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[REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED]

Unit Chief, FOIA Litigation Unit

b6
b7C

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of the General Counsel

[REDACTED] (office)
[REDACTED] (mobile)

b6
b7C
b7E

Confidentiality Statement:

This message is transmitted to you by the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The message, along with any attachments, may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
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On Aug 19, 2020 4:47 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

Thank you,

[redacted]

From:

[redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)

[redacted]

Cc:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature/propaganda was publicly shared. See below / .

[redacted]

Thank you

[redacted]

/

Media inquiries:

1. I'm a reporter with Heavy.com writing about the records vault today releasing a copy of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, along with some related correspondence that appears to include J. Edgar Hoover. The release, at least on Twitter, sparked a panic in some and concerns the bureau may have been hacked. Can anyone give us a comment or some context for the release of the document today?
2. Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account (@FBIRecordsVault) shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," an infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

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b7C

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Records Vault Tweet

b6
b7C

Thx [REDACTED] I was in touch with Arlene and the AD of NPO last night as this broke..we can catch up this morning, but the bottom line is we followed the process.

b6
b7C

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 9:45 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Mike,

b6
b7C
b7E

The release today in the vault "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion" is getting alot of negative attention. So much, that the FBI Social Media Manager sent the following two tweets below. Might get questions on this first thing in the morning.

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Aug 19, 2020 9:04 PM
Subject: Fw: Records Vault Tweet
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Records Vault Tweet

b7E

Good Evening,

We are aware of the records vault auto tweet issue and have already sent out two messages via the main FBI account and the records vault account in response. As you may know, the records vault account has an automated process that posts information when FOIA materials are released. Per the request of executive management, we have been asked to tweet the same two messages (see below) on all field office Twitter accounts, which I am doing now personally. So please expect to see these messages in your feeds shortly.

TWEET ONE

Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI's Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve.

TWEET TWO

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past some of which may be considered offensive.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Digital Strategy and Social Media Team Lead

FBI.gov and Internet Operations Unit (FIOU)

Office of Public Affairs

Mobile: [Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Vault Release 8/19/2020

b6
b7C

Good morning,

Here is some background material from [REDACTED]

b6
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- Rule of 3 posting;
- The material was originally processed in 2014 – 4 or 5 recent requests put this in the Rule of 3 category;
- FBI Tweet goes out when new material is posted on the FBI Vault;
- Our disclaimer pops up on the screen when an individual accesses the FBI Vault; the Disclaimer indicates:
 - “Please note, that the information found in these files may no longer reflect the current beliefs, positions, opinions, or policies currently held by the FBI.”
 - “Some material contained in this site may contain actions, words, or images of a graphic nature that may be offensive and/or emotionally disturbing. This material may not be suitable for all ages. Please view it with discretion.”

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vault Release 8/19/2020

b6
b7C
b7E

Good Morning [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Below are Vault resources we discussed earlier. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Link to [@FBIrecordsVault](#)

The pop-up disclaimer that appears when you select the link to the records in a tweet:

Disclaimer

The FBI’s FOIA Library contains many files of public interest and historical value. In compliance with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements, some of these records are no longer in the physical possession of the FBI, eliminating the FBI’s capability to re-review and/or re-process this material. Please note, that the information found in these files may no longer reflect the current beliefs, positions, opinions, or policies currently held by the FBI.

The image quality contained within this site is subject to the condition of the original documents and original scanning efforts. These older files may contain processing procedures that are not compliant with current FOIA processing standards. All recently scanned images posted to the FOIA Library

adhere to the NARA 300 DPI standard. Therefore, we have provided the best representation of the files contained within the FOIA Library for your viewing purposes.

Some material contained in this site may contain actions, words, or images of a graphic nature that may be offensive and/or emotionally disturbing. This material may not be suitable for all ages. Please view it with discretion.

Screenshot of the follow up tweet:



Respectfully,

[Redacted]
Government Information Specialist, FOIPA Support Unit
Information Management Division

O [Redacted]
C [Redacted]
E [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] (IMD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:02 PM

To: [Redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]
[Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

b6
b7C
b7E

[Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Subject: Vault Release - Active

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised the follow subjects are now active on the Vault.

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:53 PM

To: [Redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

[Redacted]

Subject: Vault Release for 8/19

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised the following releases will be made active on the Vault at 1:00pm tomorrow, August 19, 2020.

Name	Interim/Final	Already Public	Standard FOIA or Litigation	Page Count	OPA Write-Up	T
Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion Part 01 of 01	Final	Yes	Standard FOIA	139	No	
Rexford Tugwell Part 01 of 01	Final	Yes	Standard FOIA	268	No	

Respectfully,

[Redacted]

RIDS Vault POC
Information Management Division

O [Redacted]
C [Redacted]
E [Redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

FBI Records Vault

@FBIRecordsVault

Welcome to the official FBI Information Management Division Twitter. To submit a tip on terrorism or a federal crime, please go to tips.fbi.gov.

fbi.gov/foia/ Joined November 2011

18 Following 80.9K Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes



FBI Records Vault @FBIRecordsVault · 13h

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past, some of which may be considered offensive

133

196

554



FBI Records Vault @FBIRecordsVault · 13h

Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI's Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve.

607

744

1.1K



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Vault Release 8/19/2020

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[REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Vault Release 8/19/2020

b6
b7C
b7E

Good Morning [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Below are Vault resources we discussed earlier. Let me know if you need any additional information.

Link to [@FBIRecordsVault](#)

The pop-up disclaimer that appears when you select the link to the records in a tweet:

Disclaimer

The FBI's FOIA Library contains many files of public interest and historical value. In compliance with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requirements, some of these records are no longer in the physical possession of the FBI, eliminating the FBI's capability to re-review and or re-process this material. Please note, that the information found in these files may no longer reflect the current beliefs, positions, opinions, or policies currently held by the FBI.

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Screenshot of the follow-up tweet:

FBI Records Vault

@FBIRecordsVault

Welcome to the official FBI Information Management Division Twitter. To submit a tip on terrorism or a federal crime, please go to tips.fbi.gov.

fbi.gov/foia/  Joined November 2017

18 Following 80.9K Followers

Tweets

Tweets & replies

Media

Likes



FBI Records Vault @FBIRecordsVault · 13h

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past, some of which may be considered offensive.

💬 22

🔗 196

❤️ 554

👤



FBI Records Vault @FBIRecordsVault · 13h

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💬 48

🔗 744

❤️ 1.1K

👤

Respectfully,



Government Information Specialist, FOIPA Support Unit

Information Management Division

O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 1:02 PM

To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

Subject: Vault Release - Active

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised the follow subjects are now active on the Vault.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:53 PM

To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

Subject: Vault Release for 8/19

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised the following releases will be made active on the Vault at 1:00pm tomorrow, August 19, 2020.

Name	Interim/Final	Already Public	Standard FOIA or Litigation	Page Count	OPA Write-Up	T
Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion Part 01 of 01	Final	Yes	Standard FOIA	139	No	
Rexford Tugwell Part 01 of 01	Final	Yes	Standard FOIA	268	No	

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

RIDS Vault POC

Information Management Division

O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7E

FBI Records Vault

@FBIRecordsVault

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fbi.gov/foia/ Joined November 2011

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Tweets & replies

Media

Likes



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133

196

554



FBI Records Vault @FBIRecordsVault · 13h

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607

744

1.1K



From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"
Attachments: Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Requests 1027D.pdf

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IMD Policy Directive 1027D is on the vault [redacted]

b5

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Good morning, Mike.

Thank you for the quick update. [redacted]

b5

Happy to discuss further on a call, if easier. I'm at [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Best,
[redacted]

b6
b7C

b5

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:49 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Th[REDACTED] spoke with AD Hale last night as well.

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b7C

Let us know if the RIDS team can further assist today.

[REDACTED]

Mike

b5

On Aug 19, 2020 8:13 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

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Good evening, All:

Apologies on the very late email. I wanted you to have our official statement that we released an hour ago. We were getting substantial media interest. I believe OPA AD Hale spoke with AD Gavlord that we were issuing the below [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Thank you.

Best,

b6
b7C

//

On Record Statement: Attributable to the FBI

"Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI's Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve."

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past some of which may be considered offensive."

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[REDACTED]

We've since received four more media inquiries similar to the Guardian's - Washington Times, VOA, Jewish News, and The Forward. WFO flagged for us that a citizen, who's a [REDACTED] also reported concerns to the complaint line.

b6
b7C

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Thank you [REDACTED] Insight and edits are most welcome.

b6
b7C

Best,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

Thank you,



b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature/propoganda was publicly shared. See below / .

Thoughts on providing a statement?

[REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED]

Thank you



b6
b7C

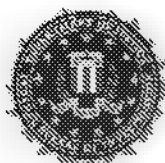
Media inquiries:

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<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION POLICY DIRECTIVE

Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests 1027D

General Information

Proponent	Information Management Division (IMD) (formerly Records Management Division [RMD])
Publication Date	2018-05-29
Review Date	2021-05-29
Last Updated	2018-06-12
Supersession	Policy Directive (PD) 0481D, <i>Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Requests</i>

1. Authorities

- The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section (§) 552, as amended
- The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended
- The OPEN Government Act of 2007
- The OPEN FOIA Act of 2009
- The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016
- Attorney General (AG) Memorandum for Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, "The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)" (March 19, 2009) (hereafter referred to as "AG memorandum")
- Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e)

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this policy is to establish the actions that must be taken by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) personnel when responding to Freedom of Information and Privacy Act (FOIPA) requests.

2.2. FOIA requires that information in the possession of agencies and departments of the executive branch of the United States government (USG) be accessible to the public. FOIA sets standards for determining what information the USG must disclose and what

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information may be withheld. FOIA also provides administrative and judicial remedies for those denied access to information.

2.3. The Privacy Act regulates the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of personal information by federal executive branch agencies. The purpose of the Privacy Act is to balance the government's need to maintain information about individuals with the rights of the individuals to be protected against unwarranted invasions of their privacy due to the maintenance of such information.

2.4. The AG memorandum directs all executive branch departments and agencies to apply a presumption of openness when administering FOIPA. The FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 codifies the requirement of foreseeable harm contained in the AG memorandum, meaning that, under FOIA, an agency must only withhold information if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption or that disclosure is prohibited by law.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all FBI personnel.

4. Exemptions

There are no exemptions to this policy.

5. Policy Statement

5.1. The FBI must respond to requests pursuant to FOIPA within 20 business days of receipt, as required by statute (5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended).

5.2. FBI personnel who possess potentially responsive information must comply with Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS), IMD search requests pursuant to this requirement.

5.3. FBI personnel must grant RIDS personnel access to information for the purpose of responding to requests pursuant to FOIPA. RIDS access includes all automatically or manually restricted or prohibited case file material, including, but not limited to, federal grand jury, federal taxpayer information (FTI), and any other legally restricted or protected information.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1. RIDS, IMD must:

6.1.1. Receive, assign, and respond to all FOIPA requests.

6.1.2. Acknowledge all FOIPA requests and issue search requests to all appropriate FBI personnel.

6.1.3. Require that the recipient of the search request acknowledge receipt via e-mail to the listed RIDS point of contact (POC) within five business days of the request date and that the recipient produce responsive information within ten business days.

6.1.4. Collect all information responsive to requests.

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- 6.1.5. Apply proper statutory exemptions and exclusions based on legal requirements and in consultation with appropriate FBI personnel.
- 6.1.6. Liaise with internal and external contributors to ensure proper processing and response.
- 6.1.7. Prepare final responses to requesters.
- 6.2. All FBI personnel must:
 - 6.2.1. Acknowledge receipt of search requests from RIDS via e-mail to the listed RIDS POCs within five business days.
 - 6.2.2. Perform searches for information (electronic and/or manual, as necessary) and identify all potentially responsive information.
 - 6.2.3. Respond to RIDS search requests (via electronic communication [EC] or e-mail) within the time frame specified and provide potentially responsive information, regardless of potentially applicable exemptions, to the listed RIDS POCs.
 - 6.2.4. Provide "no records" responses to the listed RIDS POCs within five business days of search requests when an FBI office has no responsive information.
 - 6.2.5. Indicate that responsive information pertains to pending investigations, where appropriate.
 - 6.2.6. Promptly alert the listed RIDS POCs when other exigencies may have a bearing on the necessary collection and review of responsive information.
 - 6.2.7. Coordinate review of the information with RIDS.
- 6.3. The FOIA Litigation Unit (FLU), Litigation Branch, Office of the General Counsel (OGC) must:
 - 6.3.1. Consult with RIDS as necessary on legal requirements and proposed release determinations.
 - 6.3.2. Act as a liaison between RIDS and assistant United States attorneys (AUSAs) and Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys.
 - 6.3.3. Act as a liaison between RIDS and other government agencies (OGAs) and the Office of the Deputy Attorney General (ODAG).
 - 6.3.4. Review proposed litigation declarations and provide comments, if applicable.

FOIA Web site: <<<http://www.fbi.gov/FOIA>>>

8. Definitions and Acronyms

8.1. Definitions

8.1.1. FBI personnel: any individuals employed by or detailed or assigned to the FBI, including task force officers (TFOs), task force members (TFMs), task force participants (TFPs), and members of the armed forces; experts or consultants to the FBI; industrial or commercial contractors, licensees, certificate holders, or grantees of the FBI, including all subcontractors; personal service contractors of the FBI; or any other category or person,

UNCLASSIFIED

including all those who maintain access to FBI information, who act for or on behalf of the FBI, as determined by the Director.

8.1.2. FOIA request: a request submitted to RIDS for information on any topic within records maintained by the FBI.

8.1.3. Privacy Act request: a request submitted to RIDS by a United States person (USPER) or a lawfully admitted alien for information about him- or herself within records maintained by the FBI.

8.2. Acronyms

AG	Attorney General
AUSA	assistant United States attorney
EC	electronic communication
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FLU	FOIA Litigation Unit
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FOIPA	Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts
FTI	federal taxpayer information
IMD	Information Management Division
ODAG	Office of the Deputy Attorney General
OGA	other government agency
OGC	Office of the General Counsel
PD	policy directive
POC	point of contact
RIDS	Record/Information Dissemination Section
TFM	task force member
TFO	task force officer
TFP	task force participant
U.S.C.	United States Code
USG	United States government
USPER	United States person

Approvals

Sponsoring Executive Approval

Name

Title

Louise M. Neagle

Acting Assistant Director
Information Management Division

Final Approval

Name

Title

Paul M. Abbate

Associate Deputy Director

[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:55 AM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Good morning, [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Please route inquiries to [redacted] copied above. Appreciate Mike working on the questions.

Best,

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b7C

[redacted]
National Press Office
FBI Office of Public Affairs
WFH (M [redacted])

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All correspondence contained in this e-mail, to include all names and associated contact information, may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 9:34 AM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
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b7E

Good morning [redacted]

b6
b7C

Mike Seidel is working on the questions.

I have a separate question. Members of the media are sending questions to our FOIA Questions email address. Where would you like us to direct those questions at OPA – do you have a particular telephone number or email address you are using for this topic?

Thank you,

[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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b7E

Good morning, Mike.

Thank you for the quick update [REDACTED]

b5

Happy to discuss further on a call, if easier. I'm at [REDACTED]

b6
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b7E

Best,

b6
b7C

/

b5

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]

b6
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b7E

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:49 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Thx [REDACTED] I spoke with AD Hale last night as well.

b6
b7C

Let us know if the RIDS team can further assist today.

b5

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 8:13 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

b6
b7C
b7E

Good evening, All:

Apologies on the very late email. I wanted you to have our official statement that we released an hour ago. We were getting substantial media interest. I believe OPA AD Hale spoke with AD Gaylord that we were issuing the below [REDACTED]

b5

[REDACTED] Thank you.

Best,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

//

On Record Statement: Attributable to the FBI

"Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI's Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve."

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past some of which may be considered offensive."

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:03 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

We've since received four more media inquiries similar to the Guardian's - Washington Times, VOA, Jewish News, and The Forward. WFO flagged for us that a citizen, who's a [REDACTED] also reported concerns to the complaint line.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
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Thank you, [REDACTED] insight and edits are most welcome.

b6
b7C

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[REDACTED]
I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

b6
b7C

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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b6
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b7E

Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature/propoganda was publicly shared. See below //.

Thoughts on providing a statement? [REDACTED]

b5

Thank you, [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Media inquiries:

- I'm a reporter with Heavy.com writing about the records vault today releasing a copy of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, along with some related correspondence that appears to include J. Edgar Hoover. The release, at least on Twitter, sparked a panic in some and concerns the bureau may have been hacked. Can anyone give us a comment or some context for the release of the document today?
- Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account (@FBIRecordsVault) shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion" an

infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

NPO

From: NPO
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:42 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Subject: Automatic reply: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

?You have reached the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Press Office email box for national and international media inquiries.

Messages submitted to this email will be checked throughout the day from 9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. A public affairs specialist will be in contact to facilitate media requests for comment or assistance.

If you are writing a story over the weekend or holiday, a duty officer will contact you as soon as possible. You can also call 202-324-3691.

Thank you,

National Press Office

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, DC 20535

[redacted]
[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:12 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Thank you, [redacted]

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b7C

By chance, do you have names of outlets or contact information for reporters who've since inquired? I am happy to take that off your hands - particularly - if you are receiving national media inquiries that may need to be addressed immediately.

The statement looks good.

Best,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

.....
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:58 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
[redacted]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
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b7E

Good afternoon [redacted]

b6
b7C

Here are IMD's responses - [redacted]

b5

[redacted]

b5

[Redacted]

b5

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:28 AM

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Thank you, Mike.

Reviewing now. We can coordinate calls and inquiries with [Redacted]

b6
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[Redacted]

b5

Best,

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:42 AM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[Redacted] - we're getting a flood of inquiries via our FOIA channel which [Redacted] will coordinate.

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[Redacted]

b5

Mike

Draft

[Redacted]

b5

[Redacted]

b5

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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b7E

Good morning, Mike.

Thank you for the quick update.

b5

Happy to discuss further on a call, if easier. I'm at [Redacted]

b6
b7C

Best,

b6
b7C

/

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

b7E

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:49 AM

To:

Cc:

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
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b7E

Th[redacted] spoke with AD Hale last night as well.

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b7C

Let us know if the RIDS team can further assist today.

[redacted]

b5

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 8:13 PM, [redacted] wrote:

b6
b7C
b7E

Good evening, All:

Apologies on the very late email. I wanted you to have our official statement that we released an hour ago. We were getting substantial media interest. I believe OPA AD Hale spoke with AD Gaylord that we were issuing the below. [redacted]

b5

[redacted] Thank you.

Best,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

//

On Record Statement: Attributable to the FBI

"Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI's Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve."

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past some of which may be considered offensive."

From:

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:03 PM

To:

Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)

Cc:

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
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[redacted]

b6
b7C

We've since received four more media inquiries similar to the Guardian's - Washington Times, VOA, Jewish News, and The Forward. WFO flagged for us that a citizen, who's a [redacted] also reported concerns to the complaint line.

b6
b7C

Thank you,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Thank you. [redacted] Insight and edits are most welcome.

b6
b7C

Best

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:47 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

[redacted]

b6
b7C

I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

Thank you,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature/propoganda was publicly shared. See below .

b5

Thoughts on providing a statement? [redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

Media inquiries:

- I'm a reporter with Heavy.com writing about the records vault today releasing a copy of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, along with some related correspondence that appears to include J. Edgar Hoover. The release, at least on Twitter, sparked a panic in some and concerns the bureau may have been hacked. Can anyone give us a comment or some context for the release of the document today?
- Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account (@FBIRecordsVault) shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," an infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

[redacted]
From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Hi Teresa,

[redacted]

b5

[redacted]

b6
b7C

.....
From: Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:48 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
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Hi all,

My apologies for the lateness of my response – I was offline a bit traveling to/from JEH.

[redacted]

b5
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b7E

Please let me know if I can help further.

Teresa

Teresa S. Fitzgerald
Acting Section Chief, Records and Information Management Section
Information Management Division I, Federal Bureau of Investigation
(o [redacted] (m) [redacted])
[redacted]

b7E

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:51 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted] Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

b6
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[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Hello, All:

[REDACTED]
b5
b7E

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:38 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
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b6
b7C
b7E

Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Unit Chief | FOIA Litigation Unit

b5

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b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
JEH SUITE 10140, ROOM UC3

OFFICE: [REDACTED] MOBILE: [REDACTED]
E-MAIL: [REDACTED] (UNCLASS) [REDACTED] (SECRET) [REDACTED] (TS)

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CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT:

This message is transmitted to you by the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The message, along with any attachments, may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, please destroy it promptly without further retention or dissemination (unless otherwise required by law). Please notify the sender of the error by a separate e-mail or by calling [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:35 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED] Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
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b7E

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

[REDACTED]
b5

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:17 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

b6
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b7E

[redacted]

Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[redacted]

b5

[redacted]

Unit Chief | FOIA Litigation Unit

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION | OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

JEH SUITE 10140, ROOM UC3

OFFICE: [redacted] MOBILE: [redacted]

F-MAIL: [redacted] (UNCLASS) [redacted] (SECRET) | [redacted] (TS)

b6
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b6
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b7E

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 1:00 PM

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted] Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Thanks, Mike [redacted]

b5

Stand-by and thank you!

Best,

b6
b7C

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:41 PM

To: [redacted] Fitzgerald, Teresa S. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7E

Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Adding Teresa, the Bureau's ARO—Agency Records Officer, for comment on the issue of deleting an existing, official FBI tweet posted via agency business.

b5

Mike

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Thank you, Mike.

Reviewing now. We can coordinate calls and inquiries with [REDACTED]

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b7C

[REDACTED]

b5

Best,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:42 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] —we're getting a flood of inquiries via our FOIA channel which [REDACTED] will coordinate.

b6
b7C

[REDACTED]

b5

Mike

Draft

[REDACTED]

b5

[Redacted]

b5

From: [Redacted]

b6

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:46 AM

b7C

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

b7E

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Good morning, Mike.

Thank you for the quick update. [Redacted]

b5

[Redacted]

Happy to discuss further on a call, if easier. I'm at [Redacted]

b6

b7C

b7E

Best,

[Redacted]

b6

b7C

/

[Redacted]

b5

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

b6

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:49 AM

b7C

To: [Redacted]

b7E

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Thx [redacted] I spoke with AD Hale last night as well.

b6
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[redacted]

b5

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[redacted] Thank you.

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[redacted]

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Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:03 PM
To: [redacted]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI); [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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b7C
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[redacted]

b6
b7C

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b6
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Thank you,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
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Thank you [REDACTED] Insight and edits are most welcome.

b6
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Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:47 PM
To: [REDACTED] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

[REDACTED]
I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

b6
b7C

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
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Thoughts on providing a statement? [REDACTED]

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Thank you

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- Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account (@FBIRecordsVault) shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," an infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

<https://twitter.com/FBIRecordsVault/status/1296144912497352705>

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI)
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C

Thx [REDACTED] and team...looks good!

b6
b7C

mike

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Here are the versions with OPA edits. Unless anyone raises a concern, we will use these versions starting in the morning.



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For press inquiries use this:

Thank you for contacting the Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS), the FBI's Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIPA) program. Per its mission, RIDS responds to FOIPA requesters seeking information about, or assistance with, their individual requests via the Public Information Officer/Liaison channel. For questions related to agency policies and practices, the appropriate FBI point of contact is the FBI's National Press Office, who can be contacted at npo@fbi.gov.

For general public comments and questions:

Thank you for contacting the Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS), the FBI's Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIPA) program. Per its mission, RIDS responds to FOIPA requesters seeking information about, or assistance with, their individual requests via the Public Information Officer/Liaison channel. As your inquiry does not concern a specific FOIPA request you submitted but seeks general comment or answers to questions about agency policies and practices, you may submit a request electronically at <https://efoia.fbi.gov> (available 24 hours a day), fax it to 540-868-4391/4997, or mail it to FBI, Attn: FOIPA Request, 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602-4843. Please be sure to include your contact information, to include complete mailing address, on any correspondence. Additional information about the FOIPA can be found at <http://www.fbi.gov/foia>. Should you have questions about preparing or submitting your request, please feel free to contact foipaquestions@fbi.gov.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Hi [redacted]

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b7C

Thank you for pinging me again.

[redacted]

b5

Best,

[redacted]

b6
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From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 3:32 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[redacted]

b5

From: [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 12:59 PM
To: [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

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Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

Good afternoon [redacted]

b6
b7C

Here are IMD's responses - [redacted]

b5

[redacted]

b5

[Redacted]

b5

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 11:28 AM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Thank you, Mike.

Reviewing now. We can coordinate calls and inquiries with [Redacted]

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

b5

Best,

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 10:42 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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[Redacted]—we're getting a flood of inquiries via our FOIA channel which [Redacted] will coordinate.

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[Redacted]

b5

Mike

Draft

[Redacted]

b5

[Redacted]

b5

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:46 AM

To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Good morning, Mike.

Thank you for the quick update [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

b6
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Happy to discuss further on a call, if easier. I'm at [Redacted]

Best,

[Redacted]

b6
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//

b5

[Redacted]

From: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2020 6:49 AM

To: [Redacted]

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Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Th [redacted] spoke with AD Hale last night as well.

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Let us know if the RIDS team can further assist today.

[redacted]

b5

Mike

On Aug 19, 2020 8:13 PM [redacted] wrote:

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Good evening, All:

Apologies on the very late email. I wanted you to have our official statement that we released an hour ago. We were getting substantial media interest. I believe OPA AD Hale spoke with AD Gaylord that we were issuing the below [redacted]

b5

[redacted] Thank you.

Best,

[redacted]

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b7C

//

On Record Statement: Attributable to the FBI

"Earlier today FOIA materials were posted to the FBI's Vault and FOIA Twitter account via an automated process without further outlining the context of the documents. We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve."

The FBI often receives information from members of the public, which is captured in our permanent files and released under FOIA law. The FBI must process historical files that were collected in the past some of which may be considered offensive."

From [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 5:03 PM

To [redacted] Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [redacted]

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b7E

Cc [redacted]

Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

[redacted]

b6
b7C

We've since received four more media inquiries similar to the Guardian's - Washington Times, VOA, Jewish News, and The Forward. WFO flagged for us that a citizen, who's a [redacted] also reported concerns to the complaint line.

Thank you,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

b6
b7C
b7E

Thank you [REDACTED] Insight and edits are most welcome.

b6
b7C

Best,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]; Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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b7C
b7E

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

I'll take a look at this and get back to you.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Seidel, Michael G. (IMD) (FBI) [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Media inquiry: FBI records vault release "Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

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Hello, Mike:

NPO has received two inquiries about today's **Protocols of the Elders of Zion** Vault release. One being from The Guardian asking why a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature/propoganda was publicly shared. See below //.

Thoughts on providing a statement?

b5

Thank you,

b6
b7C

//

Media inquiries:

- I'm a reporter with Heavy.com writing about the records vault today releasing a copy of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, along with some related correspondence that appears to include J. Edgar Hoover. The release, at least on Twitter, sparked a panic in some and concerns the bureau may have been hacked. Can anyone give us a comment or some context for the release of the document today?
- Looking for comment and explanation of why the FBI's verified records Twitter account @FBIRecordsVault shared a link to a document of the "Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion," an infamous piece of anti-Semitic propaganda. Can you comment the process in general for how and why specific records are shared to Twitter on this account? More specifically, why was a piece of anti-Semitic hate literature shared on this account without any context or labeling? Who is responsible for sharing this? Was this a rogue employee, or is there another reason this document was shared?

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